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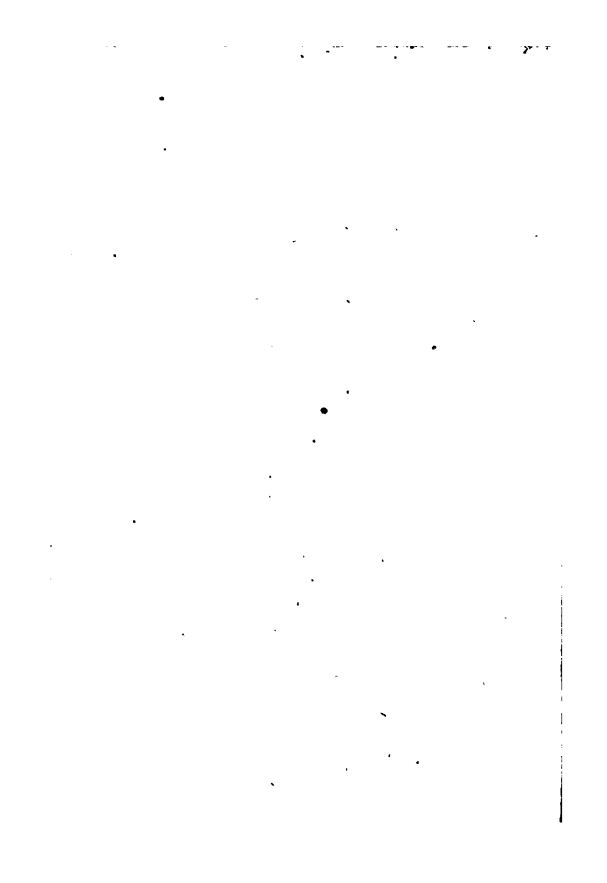
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FASHIONABLE LETTER WRITER,
ORIGINAL AND SELECTED,
CONTAINING A VARIETY OF
L E T T E R S
ON
BUSINESS, LOVE, COURTSHIP, MARRIAGE,
RELATIONSHIP, FRIENDSHIP, ETC.
WITH
FORMS OF COMPLIMENTARY CARDS.
TO THE WHOLE ARE PREFIXED
DIRECTIONS FOR LETTER WRITING,
AND
RULES FOR COMPOSITION

TROY, N. Y.
PUBLISHED BY MERRIAM, MOORE & CO

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PREFACE.

THE great utility of epistolary writing is so well known, that the necessity of being acquainted with an art replete with such advantages, is needless to be insisted on. Those, who are accomplished in it, are too happy in their own knowledge to need farther information concerning its excellence. And such as are unqualified to convey their sentiments to a friend, without the assistance of a third person, feel their deficiency so severely, that nothing need be said to convince them, that it is their interest to become acquainted with what is so necessary and agreeable.

Had letters been known at the beginning of the world, epistolary writing would have been as old as love and friendship ; for, as soon as they began to flourish, the verbal messenger was dropped, the language of the heart was committed to characters that faithfully preserved it, secrecy was maintained, and social intercourse rendered more free and pleasant.

Some of the most ancient compositions were written in this manner, and the light

of the gospel was delivered by the holy apostles in the epistolary way.

The Romans were perfect masters of this art; as CICEERO's letters sufficiently evince; nor are the moderns less sensible of its excellences. Some of the finest French writers have built their fame upon epistolary correspondence; and the English are at present so convinced of the advantages attending this method of conveying their sentiments, that it seems to have triumphed over almost every other species of composition. The historian has adopted it; we have the Greek and Roman histories, as well as those of other nations, admirably executed in letters. Almost every thing didactic, and perceptive, is delivered in this way. The novelist finds it better adapted to his purpose than any other mode of writing. No great poet is without his familiar epistle to his friend; and the traveler, seemed lost, till he found the method of conveying his intelligence in letters.

Letters are the life of trade, the fuel of love, the pleasure of friendship, the food of the politician, and the entertainment of the curious.

To *speak* to those we love or esteem, is the greatest satisfaction we are capable of knowing, and the next is, being able to converse with them by *letter*.

INTRODUCTION.

AN acquaintance with the common forms of letter writing, is of such universal necessity, that no person can transact business with satisfaction, without some knowledge of them ; and elegant letter writing is one of those accomplishments, which, however desirable for every man of science, is really attainable by few ; it ought therefore to be studied with great attention by all ; and we know of no way in which it can be studied with greater prospect of advantage, than by fair examples.

We may tell the young student, that Orthography, Grammar, Style, and punctuation are absolutely necessary to enable him to appear with any degree of respectability as an epistolary writer ; but unless we exhibit before him specimens, by examining which he may see the propriety of this information, and the advantage of attending to it, we do but little towards perfecting him in this useful art.

Orthography is certainly of the highest importance, and the neglect of it will effectually blast a man's character as a scholar, and stamp it with vulgarity or stupidity. A correct orthography depends very much on memory, on reading the best classical

authors, and on studying with care those tables so common in elementary books, in which the spelling of words which have nearly the same sound, but entirely different meanings, are set down, with short explanations to distinguish them. For want of attention to this distinction, we often see words written, which have a meaning widely different, nay, sometimes directly contrary, from what the writer designed to express; for instance, *meet* for *meat*, *except* for *accept*, and we have seen *mare* for *mayor*; from such errors ridicule will deservedly follow. There are, however, different modes of spelling some words among the best authors, between which the writer may fairly choose for himself; such as *honor*, *almanack*, *batchelor*, &c.

We would advise those who cannot fully depend on their memory for the spelling, to write often by way of practice, with a good spelling dictionary at their hand; and carefully correct what they have written, by the book; in this way they will soon, with care, be able to attain great perfection.

Grammar is deduced from certain rules which give every word its due force and form. False grammar, either in writing or speaking, but especially the former, throws a severe sarcasm on the education of the defaulter; and in many instances, make his composition unintelligible, or at best dubi-

ous. But a careful attention to the plain and simple rules laid down in the best grammars, will enable any one to write in the language of the present times; and if he carefully avoid affectation, his language will be plain, easy and elegant.

Style is of the first consequence in letter writing; and vulgarism in language or writing is a certain indication of bad company, a bad education, or being little read in good authors.

When a person sits down to write a letter, he ought first to consider his subject, and adapt his style in some measure to it, for it would be absurd to treat the most solemn and important mysteries of our holy religion; or to convey the information of some distressing casualty, in the same light and airy manner, in which we might, with propriety, mention a preposterous marriage or ludicrous incident.

We have said the style ought to be adapted to the subject; thus, letters of business ought to be as concise as they can possibly be made, and convey the necessary information. During the American Revolutionary War, the following laconic epistle was for some time pasted up in the quartermaster general's office, as a master piece of this kind of writing; it was from the quartermaster of a regiment then in camp, to whom new arms for the regiment had been sent, without instructions how to dispose

of those which they had on hand; it was couched in these words :

" Sir,

I have received the new arms for my regiment, in good order ; what shall I do with their old ones ?

Letters of friendship, and containing information of the less important occurrences of life, ought to be in a more free and easy style ; but the greatest clearness and perspicuity ought ever to be observed in them.

Familiar letters ought to be in a still more easy style ; and the subjects of them may be treated more lightly ; but great care ought to be taken never to descend to low wit or buffoonery ; the best instruction, perhaps, for this kind of writing, is to consider well what you are about to say, and write it exactly as you would tell it, if the person was present.

A few things with respect to the style of letters of every class, ought carefully to be avoided.

Proverbial expressions and trite sayings are the flowers of the rhetoric of a low-bred man.

An affectation in learning is also a great blemish in style : never make use of any word or mode of expression, which there is danger that the person to whom it is addressed may not understand ; and be careful to use none which you are not very sure you understand yourself ; pomposity in language or style, is always a subject of ridicule

Too frequent quotations is also another error which ought to be carefully avoided; a quotation or happy phrase judiciously introduced, is certainly an elegance in style; but the too frequent introduction of them, or of French or Latin phrases, or scraps of poetry, is an unpardonable affectation.

In short, to acquire a genteel style, little more is necessary than to follow nature, and write with ease; to use the most polished and best turned sentiments the subject admits of; to avoid pedantry, affectation, and the adoption of cant words and phrases, and to be very careful respecting orthographical and grammatical accuracy.

Punctuation is of very great importance to perspicuity in composition, as it is necessary to the proper division of sentences, which, without being so divided, might be ambiguous, unintelligible, or convey ideas totally different from those of the writer. In general, points are the pauses which a good orator would use in speaking; and a knowledge of them may be acquired, by observing their position in books, and by consulting good treatises on the subject.

The art of writing a fair and handsome hand, is also a very necessary attainment for those who are desirous of finishing their epistolary communications with elegance. Some have an idea that it is not genteel to write a good hand: and in this way attempt

to justify their negligence, even when carried to such an extent that their correspondents find great difficulty in discovering the contents of their letters: but experience shows that many are solely indebted to the perspicuity and elegance of their hand writing for their elevation in the world.

Straightness in your lines ought also to be carefully attended to. Some make use of black lines, drawn on another paper, and laid under that on which they write, as a guide. Until you acquire a facility of writing straight without, this is a good practice: if ever you are under the necessity of drawing lines with a lead pencil, be very careful to efface them by rubbing them with India rubber, or a crumb of bread, before your letter is sent away.

Various opinions prevail with respect to the use of capital letters; but all writers agree that every sentence should begin with one, and that proper names and the emphatical words in a sentence should be distinguished by them.

In folding your letters, do it so as to conceal the wafer, or display the seal intended for it; the folds ought to be strongly pressed with a proper instrument, or with the hand, so as to lie flat and make the corners sharp, and when they are sealed they may show a handsome shape.

The following ironical instructions which lately appeared in print, may have their use:

“Be careful to write your letters in such a

hand that the person to whom they are addressed shall not be able to read them; particularly,

“Let your signature be such, that the person to whom you write cannot discover your name; and if your letter is directed to a stranger, never add your place of residence to the date.

“In folding your letter, do it in such a manner that the wafer or wax shall come exactly on some of the most important part of the writing, and tear it entirely away in opening”

ADVANTAGES OF LETTER WRITING

Besides personal intercourse and conversation with our friends, there is nothing that can bring us so near them, and keep us acquainted with them, as letter writing. And in some respects this has great advantages over conversation. We may, and often do, say things unadvisedly, and express our thoughts from momentary impulse, when if we were to write upon the same subject, we should take more time for consideration, and express the more mature opinions arising from reflection.

A friend asks another for advice. It is given at the moment without considering the subject in all its bearings and may be wrong; perhaps the circumstances were not fully stated

by the party asking advice and therefore the other cannot be qualified to advise understandingly.

If the request had been made in writing, greater care would have been taken to state all the circumstances fully and particularly, and in replying, the subject would be much more likely to be viewed and considered in all its bearings, and the result expressed clearly; and in case of misunderstanding or forgetfulness of an opinion expressed, if in writing it may be referred to and reconsidered. In conversation, what we hear may pass from our minds without leaving any impression, and be forgotten; but in a letter, by repeated perusal it becomes fixed in our minds, and often, by subsequently reading over a letter, we derive new ideas from it, that we had overlooked at first, and would never have impressed us by simply viewing the words in conversation.

That a letter written by us may be in existence, and be read with interest years after we have passed away, is a strong reason why we should weigh well what we write, not only in the subject matter itself, but in those matters usually considered of less importance—the style, punctuation, orthography and grammar. Correct habits in all these points are obtained only by close attention and persevering effort, but once attained by practice they are kept so familiar that it would be much more difficult to err than it is to write correctly.

DIRECTIONS
FOR
LETTER WRITING
AND
RULES FOR COMPOSITION.

Of the Method of attaining a good Style.

To pretend to teach the art of fine writing by a series of mechanical rules, would be highly absurd. The young student may, however, be assisted by a few plain directions concerning the proper method of attaining a style correct and elegant.

In the *first place*, we ought always to endeavor to obtain a clear and precise idea of every subject of which we purpose to treat. This is a direction which may at first appear to have little relation to style. Its relation to it, however, is extremely close. The foundation of fine writing, is good sense accompanied with a lively imagination. The style and thoughts of a writer are so

intimately connected, that it is frequently a difficult task to distinguish what depends upon the one, and what upon the other. Whenever the impressions of objects upon the mind are faint and indistinct, or perplexed and confused, our style in treating of such objects can never be good. Whereas, what we conceive clearly, and feel strongly, we shall naturally express with clearness and with strength. Generally speaking, the best and most proper expressions are those which a clear view of the subject suggests, without much labor or inquiry.

In the *second place*, to form a good style, the frequent practice of composing is indispensably necessary. Many rules concerning style have been delivered; but no rules will answer the end without exercise and habit. At the same time, it is not every mode of composing that will improve style. This is so far from being the case, that by careless and hasty composition, we shall inevitably acquire a very bad style; we shall have more trouble afterwards in unlearning faults and correcting negligences, than if we had been totally unaccustomed to composition. At first, therefore, we ought to write slowly and with much care. Let the facility and speed of writing be the fruit of longer practice.

"I enjoin," says Quinctilian, "that such

as are beginning the practice of composition, write slowly and with anxious deliberation. Their great object at first should be, to write as well as possible: practice will enable them to write speedily. By degrees, matter will offer itself still more readily: words will be at hand; composition will flow; every thing, as in the arrangement of a well ordered family, will present itself in its proper place. The sum of the whole is this; that by hasty composition, we shall never acquire the art of composing well; by writing well, we shall come to write speedily.

We must not, however, be too anxious about words: we must not retard the course of thought, nor cool the heat of the imagination, by pausing too long on every word which we employ. There is, on certain occasions, a glow of composition which should be kept up, if we hope to express ourselves happily, though at the expense of allowing some inadvertencies to pass. These must afterwards be scrutinized with a critical eye. If the practice of composition be useful, the laborious work of correcting is no less so; it is absolutely necessary to our reaping any benefit from the habit of composing. What we have written, should be laid aside till the ardor of composition be past, till our fondness for the expressions which we have used, be worn off, and the

expressions themselves be forgotten. By reviewing our work with a cool and critical eye, as if it were the performance of another, we shall discover many imperfections, which at first escaped our observation. It is then the season for pruning redundancies; for examining the arrangement of sentences; and for bringing style into a regular, correct, and supported form. To this labor of correction all those must submit, who would communicate their thoughts to others with proper advantage; and some practice in it will soon sharpen the eye to the most necessary objects of attention, and render the task much more easy and practicable than might at first be imagined.

In the *third place*, with respect to the assistance which is to be derived from the writings of others, it is obvious, that we ought to render ourselves well acquainted with the style of the best authors. This is requisite both to form a just taste in style, and to supply us with a full stock of words on every subject.

In the *fourth place*, we must beware of falling into a servile imitation of any author whatsoever. Imitation is always dangerous, and is likely to produce a stiff manner. Those who are addicted to close imitation, generally imitate an author's faults as well as his beauties. No man will ever become

a good writer or speaker, who has not some degree of confidence to follow his own genius. We ought to beware, in particular, of adopting any author's noted phrases, or transcribing passages from him. Such a habit will prove fatal to all genuine composition. It is much better to have something that is our own, though of moderate beauty, than to affect to shine in borrowed ornaments, which will at last betray the utter poverty of our genius.

In the *fifth place*, those who are ambitious of attaining a beautiful style, ought to study with attention the works of the most eminent poets. From this source is often derived a more delicate and elevated mode of expression as well as of thinking. We find that the most excellent prose writers, both of ancient and modern times, are those who, during some part of their life, have applied themselves to the study of poetry.

In the *sixth place*, it is an obvious but material rule, that we always study to adapt our style to the subject; and also to the capacity of our readers. Nothing merits the name of eminent or beautiful, which is not suited to the occasion, and to the persons to whom it is addressed. It is to the last degree awkward and absurd, to adopt a florid, poetical style, on occasions when it should be our sole business to argue and reason; or to write with elaborate pomp of expres-

sion to persons who comprehend nothing of it, and who can only stare at our unseasonable magnificence. These are defects not so much in point of style, as, what is much worse, in point of common sense. When we begin to write, we ought previously to have fixed in our minds a clear conception of the end to be aimed at. This end we ought to keep steadily in view; and to it we ought to adapt our style. If we do not sacrifice to this great object, every ill-timed ornament that may occur to our fancy, we betray a want of judgment.

In the *last place*, I cannot conclude the subject without this observation, that, in any case, and on any occasion, attention to style must not engross us so much, as to detract from a higher degree of attention to the thoughts. To your expression, be attentive; but about your matter, be solicitous.

Of Clearness and Precision in the Structure of Sentences.

1. **AMBIGUITIES** are frequently occasioned by the improper use of the Adverb. This part of speech, as its name implies, is generally placed close or near to the word which it modifies or affects; and its propriety and force depend on its position.

By neglecting to advert to this circumstance, writers frequently convey a different meaning from what they intended.

2. Words expressing things connected in the thought, should be placed as near together as possible. This rule is derived immediately from the principles of human nature; in which we may discover a remarkable propensity to place together objects that are in any manner connected. When objects are arranged according to their connections, we have a sense of order: when they are placed fortuitously, we have a sense of disorder.

The connective parts of sentences are the most important of all, and require the greatest care and attention; for it is by these chiefly that the train of thought, the course of reasoning, and the whole progress of the mind, in continued discourse of all kinds, is laid open; and on the right use of these depends perspicuity, the greatest beauty of style.

3. Another great source of ambiguity, is the too frequent repetition of pronouns, when we have occasion to refer to different persons.

4. A circumstance ought never to be placed between two capital members of a period; for by such an arrangement, we are left doubtful to which of the two the circumstance refers. But when it is interject-

ed between parts of the member to which it properly belongs, the ambiguity is removed, and these members are kept distinct from each other.

Of Unity in the Structure of Sentences.

In compositions of every description, a certain degree of unity is absolutely requisite. There must always be some leading principle to form a chain of connection between the component parts. In single sentences, which are members of a composition, the same principle must also be predominant.

1. Objects that have no intimate connection should never be crowded into one sentence. A sentence or period ought to express one entire thought or mental proposition; and different thoughts ought to be separated in the expression, by being placed in different periods. It is improper to connect in language, things which are separated in reality. The greatest care should be taken to avoid violations of this rule.

2. Parentheses ought never to be introduced in the middle of sentences; and indeed the unity and beauty of a period can never be complete where they are introduced.

ed in any situation. At present, they are not so frequently used as they were formerly: and it is to be hoped, that the time will arrive when they shall be entirely excluded. They are, at best, nothing more than a perplexed and awkward method of disposing of some thought which the writer wants art to introduce in its proper place.

3. Sentences ought never to be extended beyond what seems their natural close. Each one should have a beginning, a middle, and an end. It need not here be observed, that, according to the laws of rhetoric, an unfinished sentence is no sentence at all. But we frequently meet with sentences which may be said to be more than finished. When we have arrived at what we expected was to be their conclusion, some circumstance which ought to have been omitted, or to have been otherwise disposed of, suddenly presents itself. Such appendages tend to destroy the beauty and to diminish the strength of the period.

Of Strength in the Structure of Sentences.

1. A sentence ought to be divested of all redundant words. These may sometimes be consistent with clearness and unity; but they are always irreconcilable with

strength. It is an invariable maxim, that words which add nothing to the sense or to the clearness, must diminish the force of the expression.

2. A sentence ought also to be divested of all redundant members. Every member should present a new thought. Yet we sometimes meet with periods in which the last member is nothing more than the echo of the first, or a repetition of it in a different form.

3. In constructing a sentence, particular attention should be paid to all the particles employed in transition and connection. The gracefulness and strength of a period must in a great measure depend on words of this description. They are the joints and hinges upon which all sentences turn. The various modes of using them are so numerous, that no particular rules respecting them can be formed. We must be directed by an attentive consideration of the practice of standard writers, joined with frequent trials of the different effects produced by a different application of those particles.

4. In arranging a sentence, the most important words ought to be placed in that situation in which they will make the strongest impression. Every one must perceive, that in all sentences there are certain words of superior importance; and

is equally obvious that those words should stand in a conspicuous and distinguished place. But the precise station which they ought to occupy, cannot be ascertained by any general rule. Their position must vary with the nature of the sentence. Perspicuity must ever be studied in the first place: and for the most part, the important words are placed at the beginning of the sentence.

5. Sentences ought never to be concluded with words that make an inconsiderable figure. Such conclusions always have the effect of enfeebling and degrading. There may indeed be sentences in which the stress and significance rest chiefly upon adverbs, prepositions or some other word of the same kind. In this case they ought to have a principal place allotted to them. No objection, therefore, can be urged against such an arrangement as appears in this period: "In their prosperity, my friends shall never hear of me: in their adversity, *always*." Here the adverb *always*, being an emphatical word, is so placed, as to make a strong impression.

6. In the members of a sentence where two objects are either compared or contrasted, some resemblance in the language and construction should be preserved.

Of Harmony in the Structure of Sentences

ALTHOUGH sound is a quality of much less importance than sense, yet it must not be altogether disregarded. For as sounds are the vehicle of our ideas, there must always be a pretty intimate connection between the idea which is conveyed, and the sound which conveys it. Pleasing ideas can hardly be transmitted to the mind by means of harsh and disagreeable sounds. At these the mind immediately revolts. Nothing can enter into the affections which stumbles at the threshold by offending the ear. Music has naturally a great power over all men to prompt and facilitate certain emotions; insomuch, that there are scarcely any dispositions which we wish to raise in others, but certain sounds may be found concordant to these dispositions, and tending to excite and promote them.—Language is, to a certain degree, possessed of the same power. Not content with simply interpreting our ideas to the hearer, it can communicate them enforced by the corresponding sounds; and to the pleasure of imparted knowledge, can add the new and separate pleasure of melody.

In the harmony of sentences, two things may be considered; agreeable sound, or modulation, in general without any parti-

gular expression, and sound so ordered, as to become expressive of the sense.

Let us first consider sound, in general, as the property of a well-constructed sentence. The musical cadence of a sentence will depend upon two circumstances: the choice of words, and the arrangement of them.

With regard to the choice of words, little can be said, unless we were to descend into a tedious and frivolous detail concerning the powers of the several letters, or simple sounds, of which speech is composed. It is evident, that those words are most agreeable to the ear, which are composed of smooth and liquid sounds, where there is a proper intermixture of vowels and consonants, without too many harsh consonants clashing with each other, or too many open vowels in succession. It may always be assumed as a principle, that whatever words are difficult in pronunciation, are, in the same proportion, harsh and painful to the ear. Vowels add softness, consonants strength, to the sound of words. The melody of language requires a due proportion of both, and will be destroyed by an excess of either. Long words are commonly more agreeable to the ear than monosyllables. They please it by the succession of sounds which they present; and accordingly the most musical languages possess them in

the greatest abundance. Among words of any length, those are most musical which do not wholly consist either of long or short syllables, but contain a due intermixture of both.

However well chosen and well sounding the words themselves may be, yet if they be ill disposed, the music of the sentence is utterly lost.

A
MINISTER'S ADVICE
TO A
YOUNG LADY.

Thy winning grace will lose its power to
charm,
Thy smile to vanquish, and thy breast to
warm :
The reign of beauty, like the blooming
flower,
Is but the pride and pageant of an hour ;
To-day its sweets perfume the ambient air,
To-morrow sees it shrunk, nor longer fair.
Such the extent of all *external* sway ;
At best, the glory of a short liv'd day.
Then let the mind your noblest care engage ;
Its beauties last beyond the flight of age ;
*Tis *mental* charms protract each dying grace,
And renovate the bloom that decked the
beauteous face.
Let ev'ry virtue reign within thy breast,
That Heav'n approves, or makes its own
blest ;

To candor, truth, and charity divine,
The modest, decent, lovely virtues join :
Let wit, well temper'd, meet with sense re-
fin'd,

And every thought express the polish'd
mind,

A mind above the meanness of deceit ;
Of honor pure—in conscious virtue great ;
In every change that keeps one steady aim,
And feels that joy and virtue are the same.
And O ! let prudence o'er each thought pre-
side,

Direct in public, and in private guide ;
Teach thee the snares of artifice to shun,
And know, not *feel*, how others were un-
done ;

Teach thee to tell the flatterer from the
friend,

And those who love from those who but
pretend.*

Ah ! ne'er let flattery tempt you to be-
lieve ;

For man is false, and flatters—to deceive ;
Adores those charms his falsehood would
disdain,

And laughs at confidence he strives to
gain.

And if delight your bosom e'er would taste,

* Ladies can never too cautiously shun hypo-
crites in love, as the bane of female innocence and
virtue

O shun the vicious, dread the faithless
breast!

Affection breathes, where'er they take their
way;

And weeping innocence becomes a prey!
The slightest blasts a female's bliss destroy,
And taint the source of all her sweetest
joy;

Kill every blossom, overrun each flower,
And wrest from beauty all its charming
power.

The dying bud may burst to life again,
And herbs o'erspread the snow-infested
plain;

Green leaves may clothe the wint'ry widow-
ed trees,
And where frost nipt, may fan the western
breeze;

"But beauteous woman no redemption
knows!

The wounds of honour, time can never
close;"

Her virtue sunk, to light can never rise,
Nor lustre beam from once guilt-clouded
eyes.

Fix'd be thy mind, those pleasures to pur-
sue,

That reason points as permanent and true;
Think not that bliss can mingle with a
throng,

Whirl'd by a tide of idle forms along:

Think not that Pleasure lives with pomp
and state,

Or soothes the bosom of the rich and great;
Think not to meet her at the ball or play,
Where flirt the frolicsome, and haunt the
gay;

Think not she flutters on the public walk,¹
Or prompts the tongue that pours unmean-
ing talk

Or loves the breath of compliment to feel,
Or stamps on crowns her estimable seal.

True Female Pleasure, of more modest
kind,

Springs from the heart, and lives within the
mind;

From noisy mirth, and grandeur's route she
flies,

And in domestic duties wholly lies.

As fades the flower, that's rear'd with tan-
der care

When left expos'd to storms and chilling
air;

So fades the fair, in reason's sober eye,

That braves the crowd, nor heeds the dan-
ger nigh;

Who giddy roves, with Folly's motley
queen,

Nor loves the transports of a life serene.

Be thine the friendship of a chosen *fete*,
every virtue uniformly true;

Be thine the converse of some kindred
mind,
Candid to all, but not to errors blind ;
Prudent to check or warn unguarded youth,
And guide thy steps in innocence and in
truth.
Those who regard, will fulsome language
waive ;
And, in the friend sincere, forget the slave ;
Will make, like me, your happiness its care,
Nor wink at specks, that render you less fair.

From books, too, draw much profit and
delight,
At early morning and at latest night ;
But far, O far ! from thy chaste eyes re-
move
The bloated page, that paints licentious
love ;
That wakes the passions, but not mends the
heart,
And only leads to infamy and art !
Let Addison's and Johnson's moral page,
And Hawkesworth's pleasing style, thy
hours engage,
From Milton feel the warm poetic fire,
Whom all the nymphs of Helicon inspire ;
With Thompson, round the varied Seasons
rove,
His chaste ideas let every heart improve.
Let tuneful Pope instruct you how to sing.

To frame the lay, and raise the trembling
wing.

Such be the joys; and through this varied life,
Whether a maid, a mother, or a wife;
May fair content forever fill thy breast,
And not an anxious care disturb thy rest;
May love, the purest passion of the skies,
Play round thy heart, and sparkle in thine
eyes;
May all thy worth be virtue's sweet regard,
And goodness, only, claim thy just reward.

AMERICAN
LETTER WRITER.
ON BUSINESS.

LETTER I.

*From a Young Tradesman to Wholesale
Dealers, with an Order.*

GENTLEMEN,

I hope it will not be a disagreeable surprise to see below an order on my account.

I am not the least doubtful of your serving me on the best terms; that is, so as to enable me to sell as cheap as others. And whenever you have occasion for money, your demand shall either be paid, or you may draw on me for the amount. Pray be careful in choosing my goods, and expeditious in forwarding them, which will tend to increase your correspondence with,

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient servant.

LETTER II.

From a Tradesman in the Country to a Dealer in the City.

SIR,

Having been recommended to you by Mr. Roberts, with whom I served my apprenticeship, I have herewith sent you a small order, as under, which I hope you will execute on as good terms, and with the same care and despatch, as for the rest of your correspondents. After having given me the usual credit, I will remit you a United States bank bill for the amount; and if you treat me well, I will omit no opportunity of increasing my commissions, and testifying that I am, with much respect, sir,

Your most obedient humble servant

LETTER III.

From a Young Tradesman to the Customers of his late Master; (a circular letter)

SIR,

With much regret I inform you of the unexpected decease of my late worthy master. Mr. P. has caused his executors to make an arrangement, by which I am to transact the business he was used to carry on, for the joint benefit of his widow and myself, till

his son, now only fourteen years old, comes to years of maturity; at which time Mrs. P. is to retire, and he is to take an active part and share in the business.

Under these circumstances, I take the liberty to solicit a continuance of your favors in the way of business, for my own as well as the widow and orphan's benefit; assuring you that all your orders shall be attended to with the utmost punctuality and care

I am, sir,

Your most obedient and humble servant.

LETTER IV.

From a Young Man whose Master had lately died.

SIR,

I doubt not but you have heard of my late worthy master's death. I have served him as an apprentice and journeyman, above twelve years; and as his widow does not choose to carry on the business, I have taken the store and stock in trade, and shall be glad to deal with you in the same manner he did. I have sent the enclosed order for payment of such bills as are due, and you may depend upon punctuality with respect to the remainder, for which purpose let them be entered as my debt. Please to

send the enclosed order, and let the goods be the best you have, which will oblige

Your humble servant.

LETTER V.

The Answer.

Sir,

Yours I received, and am extremely sorry to hear of the death of my good friend, your late master; but, at the same time, pleased that his business has fallen into such good hands as yours. You have double advantage over a stranger, as you are well acquainted both with your late master's trade and customers, which by his dealings with me appear to be very extensive. I have sent your order in ten bales, marked O. P., by the Speedwell, of Norfolk, John Thompson, master, and you will find them as good and cheap as any that are to be had in the city. I heartily thank you for your offered correspondence; and shall, on all occasions, use you with honor. I wish you all manner of success; and am,

Your humble servant.

ON BUSINESS.

LETTER VI.

From a Tradesman to a Customer, demanding Payment of Money.

Sir,

Your bill for goods supplied last year, has now been delivered upwards of three months, and I have waited on you several times to solicit payment, but have not been so fortunate as to find you at home; I have a very large sum to make up in the course of a week, and shall esteem it a very particular favor, if you can let me have the amount of my bill delivered within that time. I trust you will excuse the liberty I take in writing to you on this subject, and believe me, sir,

Your most obedient and humble servant.

LETTER VII.

Answer to the preceding.

Sir,

I am sorry you have had the trouble of calling so often for your money, and still more that it is not in my power to pay your bill within the time you mention; I am, at present, very short of cash, and shall be so for six weeks; at the end of that time I will settle with you.

I am, sir, your humble servant.

LETTER VIII.

The Tradesman's Reply.

SIR,

I should be sorry to appear troublesome to any customer; but you who are not in any business, may not probably know how subject tradesmen are to large demands for cash, and how much an omission of payment may injure them in the world; the credit on your bill already exceeds, by some months, what is usual in trade to give, and what I give my customers in general; I hope, therefore, you will not take it amiss, that I have drawn on you at six weeks for the amount of my demand; I have sent the bill by my clerk for your acceptance, not doubting that it will be duly honored, and that you will excuse this liberty from,

Sir, your most humble obedient servant.

LETTER IX.

From a Tradesman unable to honor his Acceptance to a Merchant.

DEAR SIR,

It gives me the greatest pain to be under the necessity of writing to you on the subject I am now about to do, but I think it better to apprise you of the circumstance

beforehand, than to permit a bill with your name on it to be dishonored without your knowledge. The failure of Mr. C. who is my debtor to a considerable amount, and from whom I was in daily expectation of payment, has strained me for cash so much that I can only raise \$30 towards the amount of the bill for \$97,17, which I accepted in your favor, and which will become due the day after to-morrow.

If you would have the kindness, if the bill remains in your hands, to receive that sum, in part, and my acceptance at two months for the remainder, I will take care it shall be duly attended to; or if the bill is out of your hands, if you would favour me with cash to supply the deficiency, I will give you the like bill and allow discount, with pleasure. I am given to understand there will be a considerable dividend of Mr. C.'s effects; if an assignment of my claim on him would be any satisfaction to you, as a collateral security, I am willing to make it, or do any thing else in my power to convince you, that I mean to act honestly. I am, dear sir, Your sincere friend,
And obliged humble servant.

LETTER X.

*From a tenant to a Landlord, excusing
delay of Payment.*

Sir,

I have been your tenant above ten years in the house where I now live, and you know that I have never failed to pay my rent quarterly when due. At present I am extremely sorry to inform you, that from a variety of losses and disappointments, I am under the necessity of begging that you will indulge me one quarter longer; by that time I hope to have it in my power to answer your just demand, and the favor shall be ever gratefully acknowledged by your
Obedient humble servant

LETTER XI

The Answer

Sir,

It was never my intention to oppress you. I have had long trial of your honesty, and therefore you may rest perfectly satisfied concerning your present request. No demand shall be made by me, upon you for rent, until it suits you to pay it; for I am convinced, you will not keep it from me any longer.

I am yours sincerely.

LETTER XII.

An urgent demand for Payment.

MR. THOMPSON,

The exigence of my affairs compels me thus importunately, nay, peremptorily to write to you. Can you think it possible to carry on business in the manner you act by me? You know what promises you have made, and how from time to time you have broken them. Can I, therefore, depend upon any new ones you make? If you use others as you do me, how can you think of carrying on business? If you do not, what must I think of the man, who deals worse by me than he does by others? If you think you can trespass more upon me than you can on others, that is a very bad compliment to my prudence, or your own gratitude; for surely good usage should be entitled to the same in return. I know how to allow for disappointments as well as any man; but can a man be disappointed forever? Trade is so dependent a thing, that it cannot be carried on without mutual punctuality. Does not the merchant expect it from me for those very goods I send you? And, can I make a return to him without receiving it from you? What end can it answer to give you two years credit, and then be at an uncertainty, for goods

which I sell at a small profit, and have only six months credit for myself? Indeed, sir, this will never do. I must be more punctually used by you, or else deal as little punctually with others; and then, what must be the consequence? In short, sir, I expect a handsome payment by the next return, and security for the remainder. I am loath to take any harsh measures to procure justice to myself, my family, and creditors

For I am, if it be not your own fault,

Your faithful friend and servant

LETTER XIII.

The Answer.

Sir,

I acknowledge with gratitude the lenity you have at all times shown, and my being obliged to disappoint you so often has given me much uneasiness. I do assure you, sir, that I am not so ungrateful as my conduct has given you reason to believe. From the state of my accounts, you will find that the greatest part of my property is in the hands of country dealers, who, although they seldom fail, yet their times of payment are precarious and uncertain. However, to convince you of my integrity, I have sent by this day's post an order for seventy dollars, and next week you shall receive one

much larger. The remainder shall be sent in a short time. I am determined for the future, to make the rules laid down in your excellent letter a guide in my dealings with those people, whose dilatoriness in making good their payments to me, obliges me to disappoint you; and to convince you further of my integrity, the goods which I order, until the old account is paid off, shall be for ready money. I doubt not but you will continue to treat me with the same good usage as formerly, and believe me to be unfeignedly,

Your obliged humble servant.

LETTER XIV.

From a Merchant to a Tradesman, demanding Money, and expressing Disapprobation of his proceedings.

SIR,

Inclosed is your account, and I am sorry the statement of your mode of living, which has been reported to me, is such, that I must in justice to myself, demand an immediate payment of the balance. It is not my disposition to act unkindly, or distress any man; but when I see people with my property in their hands, squandering away their substance in wanton extravagance, it becomes necessary for me to see a little to

my affairs. Sir, I am informed you keep a horse and chaise, and country lodgings; that you belong to clubs, and are a Buck of the fashion, a Free and Easy, and I know not what else; in a word, that business is but a secondary concern with you; nay, what is worse, I have heard it hinted that you game. I began the world, sir, with a greater capital than you, and with as good a connexion, in cheaper times, but I never kept a horse till I was not able to walk, and other men no richer than myself, kept their coach; as to the sin and folly of wasting my time in debauchery and gaming, I always was above it, for whatever you may think, a man is much more creditably employed in his business, than in sitting amongst mimics and stage players, or wasting money not his own, amongst sharpers.

Sir, your having married my kinswoman will not protect you against my taking the necessary steps to recover my money: were you my own son, I would not act otherwise, and am very sorry to have reason to cease subscribing myself,

Your sincere friend

LETTER XV.

The Answer.

DEAR SIR,

For so I shall persevere to call you, notwithstanding the unkindness of your last, you have lived long enough in the world to know that when a man is fortunate, in any respect, there are not wanting envious persons to do him an injury; I considered myself happy in the possession of your good opinion, and have found an enemy to supplant me. I will answer the charges you bring against me, one by one, and you will see at once how little they are founded in truth.

As to my keeping a horse and chaise, I have not rode in one, except yours, these three years, only once on this occasion: B. who owed me a great deal of money, was absconding near the seacoast; I learnt where he was, and having got a writ out against him, went down to the place with my attorney, that it might be properly executed, and the chaise was his; so I only paid for the hire of the horse, which was, on the whole, a saving to me.

The state of my poor wife's health is such as to require country air, and I have taken a lodging for her near K. but this is so small an expense, I am persuaded, were

you the most miserable economist in the world instead of a liberal minded man, you would think such a trifle ought not to be spared to preserve your cousin's health and perhaps life.

As to clubs, I belong to none, except the lodge of Freemasons, to which you yourself introduced me, and you, who knew all the members, can judge whether they are proper company or not; and with respect to gaming, I can declare I never played at any game of chance in my life, except whist, and not that for more than a shilling a point.

But let assertion go for nothing between us, and facts speak for themselves; if you will favor me by eating a bit of dinner at my house to-morrow, we will go over my books together, and you will see by the regularity and general state of them, how I attend to business; and as it will be Saturday, on which day I usually go to K. if you will have the goodness to take your tea there, you will see what sumptuous country lodgings I have got.

If you insist on instant payment of the balance of your account, I must arrange matters accordingly; but though it will put me to some inconvenience, it will not efface the memory of past kindness, nor prevent my acknowledging myself

Your much obliged friend,
And humble servant.

LETTER XVI.

Soliciting the Loan of Money from a Friend.

DEAR SIR,

I believe that ever since you first knew me, you will be ready to acknowledge that no person was ever more diffident in asking favors than myself. Indeed I have always considered it as more pleasing to an honest mind, to confer, than receive a favor; but an unexpected affliction in my family obliges me to solicit your assistance, by the loan of about forty dollars for six months; but on this condition, that you can spare it without hurting yourself; for I would by no means choose that my friend should suffer in his present circumstances in order to oblige me. Indeed, sir, I was some days engaged amongst my acquaintances to raise the money, before I could prevail with myself to ask it from you; and that I have now done it, is from a principle far more noble than any lucrative motive; nor indeed would I have asked it at all, were I not morally certain of paying it at the time proposed. I hope this will not give any offence, and as I before said, if it is any way inconvenient, let me beg that you will refuse it.

I am, sir,

Yours with the greatest sincerity.

LETTER XVII

The Answer

DEAR SIR,

I could not hesitate one moment in answering your letter; and had I known that my worthy friend had been in the want of the sum mentioned, I should never have put his unaffected modesty to the blush by suffering him to ask it; no, sir, the offer should have come from myself. However the sum is sent by the bearer, but let me beg, if you consider me really as your friend, that you will suit the payment to your own circumstances, without being confined to a particular time; and not only so, but that you will likewise command my assistance in every thing else wherein I can serve you. But lest you think me strictly formal, I have hereby given you leave to draw on me to the amount of two hundred dollars, or for any less sum, to be paid as is most suitable to your circumstances.

I am, sir, your sincere friend.

LETTER XVIII.

*To a Person who wants to borrow Money
of another, without any claim but Assu-
rance*

SIR,

While I was out of town, I find you did me the favor of inquiring two or three times for me; and among my letters I found one from you, desiring the loan of fifty dollars. You must certainly have mistaken me or yourself very much, to think we were enough known to each other for such a transaction. I was twice in your company; I was delighted with your conversation, and you seemed as much pleased with mine. Should I answer the demands of every new acquaintance, I should soon want power to oblige my old friends, and even to serve myself. Surely, sir, a gentleman of your merit cannot be so little beloved as to be forced to seek new acquaintance, and to have no better friend than one of yesterday. Be this as it may, it does not at all suit my convenience to comply with your request, and therefore I must beg you to excuse,

Yours, &c

LETTER XIX.

Refusal to lend Money.

SIR,

I am exceedingly sorry that your request comes to me at a time when I am so pressed by my own affairs, that I cannot with any convenience, comply with it. On any future opportunity, when I may have money to spare, I shall be ready to oblige you. I hope, sir, you will therefore excuse,

Your most humble servant.

LETTER XX.

Compliance to lend Money.

SIR,

I consider myself much obliged in the request you make me. I most cheerfully comply with it, and enclose a note for the requested sum payable at sight; and am not a little glad it is in my power to show you how much I am, sir,

Your faithful friend and servant.

LETTER XXI.

From an insolvent Debtor, to his principal Creditor, requesting an investigation into his accounts, for the benefit of his Creditors.

SIR,

When I first entered upon business, I little thought that ever I should be under the necessity of writing to you on such a subject as this; but experience teaches me that it is much better to acknowledge the state of affairs to my creditors, than put them to the expense of commencing suits against me. To you therefore, sir, as the person to whom I am principally indebted, do I address myself on this melancholy occasion, and must freely acknowledge that my affairs are very much perplexed. I have these ten years past endeavored to acquire something for myself, but in vain. The variety of different articles which I have been obliged to sell on credit, and the losses sustained thereby, always kept me in low circumstances; and often when I paid you money, I had none left for the support of my family. If you will be pleased to employ some prudent person to examine my books, I doubt not but you will be convinced that the whole of my conduct has been consistent with the strict-

est rules of honesty ; and if it shall appear so to you, I must beg you will be pleased to call a meeting of my creditors, and lay it before them. I have not spent any more than was absolutely necessary for the support of my family, and every thing remaining shall be delivered up. When all this is done, I hope you will accept of it, as it is not in my power to do any more, and consider me as one whose misfortunes call for pity instead of resentment.

I am, sir,

Your most humble servant

LETTER XXII.

The Answer.

SIR,

It is with the greatest concern that I have perused your affecting letter ; and should consider myself as very cruel indeed, if I refused to comply with a request so reasonable as that made by you. I have employed a worthy person, a friend of mine, to examine your books, the result of which shall be immediately laid before the other creditors ; and if it is as you represent, you need not be afraid of any harsh usage. I always considered you as a person of integrity, and am determined to devise a plan for your future support. In the mean time

I have sent a trifle to defray your expenses, till the other affairs are settled, and am,

Your sincere well-wisher.

LETTER XXIII.

*From a Tradesman to a Wholesale Dealer,
to delay payment of a sum of Money.*

Sir,

My note to you will be payable in ten days, and I am sorry to inform you, although I have considerable sums in good hands, yet none of them are due these three weeks, which is all the time I require. It is a favor I never asked of any one till this moment, and I hope for the future not to have any occasion to repeat it. I am really distressed for your answer; but as a proof of my sincerity, have sent inclosed three notes given by persons well known to yourself; and although they exceed my debt, yet I have no objection to your keeping them as security till due. Let me beg to hear from you as soon as this comes to hand, which will greatly oblige

Your humble servant.

LETTER XXIV.

The Answer.

SIR,

It was extremely fortunate for you that your letter arrived the day after it was written, for I was to have paid your note away yesterday, and I could not have had an opportunity of recalling it in time to have served you. Indeed, it was imprudent not to communicate the news to me sooner, as your credit might have been greatly affected by such an unnecessary delay. However, I impute it to your unwillingness to reveal the state of your affairs, and shall keep the note in my hands till your own becomes due, and for that purpose have returned the others, not doubting but you will send me the money at the time promised, which will greatly oblige

Your sincere well-wisher.

LETTER XXV.*Recommending a Man Servant*

SIR,

The bearer has served me with integrity and fidelity these three years, but having a desire to settle in New York, he left my house about a week ago, and by a letter

from him this day, I find you are willing to employ him on my recommendation, and it is with the greatest pleasure that I comply with his request. His behavior, while with me was strictly honest, sober, and diligent, and I doubt not but it will be the same with you. I have sent this inclosed in one to himself, and if you employ him, I hope he will give satisfaction.

I am, sir, your humble servant.

LETTER XXVI.

From a young Tradesman, in distressed circumstances, to another of age and experience.

DEAR FRIEND,

Your knowledge of the world, joined to your goodness of heart, and adorned with the most exalted piety, encourages me to seek your advice in a case of real distress. You know I have not been full five years in business, and although the beginning promised fair, yet, alas! I have been deceived. So does the sun shine upon us in the morning; we take our pleasure in the fields for a few hours, we are overtaken by a sudden storm, and the day concludes in thunder and lightning.

To speak in plain words, the many failures which have lately taken place in the

commercial world, have brought me to the brink of temporal misery : two thirds of my property has been fraudently taken from me, and I see no prospect before me, besides a prison or the insolvent law : the former is dreadful, the latter is disgraceful. Under such unhappy circumstances, how shall I act? I have not been indolent or extravagant, but by an ill-timed and ill-placed confidence, I have been injured.

A good character is what I strive to preserve ; a good conscience is what I still enjoy : but the world is often deaf to all our pretensions to integrity. No sooner are we fallen than we are trodden under foot ; our misfortunes are considered as crimes ; we are despised by some, hated by others, but pitied by few. Ah ! sir, when shall we learn to do as we would be done by ? When shall we love our neighbors as ourselves ? It is a great misfortune in trade, that every failure is considered as criminal, although the person accused is often innocent. I know you have abilities to give me advice. I know you have a tender, compassionate heart, and your charity will shine with a distinguished lustre, if displayed on the present melancholy occasion ; and by your advice, perhaps my ruin may be prevented. I have sent this by my poor afflicted wife, and will wait on you as soon as I receive your orders for that purpose. In the meantime,

. I am your sincere, though afflicted friend.

ON LOVE, COURTSHIP & MARRIAGE.

LETTER XXVII.

Letter from a Gentleman to a Lady, disclosing his passion.

MADAM,

Those only who have suffered them, can tell the unhappy moments of hesitating uncertainty which attend the formation of a resolution to declare the sentiments of affection; I, who have felt their greatest and most acute torments, could not, previous to my experience, have formed the remotest idea of their severity. Every one of those qualities in you which claim my admiration, increased my diffidence, by showing the great risk I run in venturing, perhaps before my affectionate assiduities have made the desired impression on your mind, to make a declaration of the ardent passion I have long since felt for you.

My family and connexions are so well

known to you, that I need say nothing of them; if I am disappointed of the place I hope to hold in your affections, I trust this step will not draw on me the risk of losing the friendship of yourself and family, which I value so highly, that an object less ardently desired, or really estimable, could not induce me to take a step by which it should be in any manner hazarded.

I am, madam,

Your affectionate admirer and

Sincere friend.

LETTER XXVIII

The Answer.

Sir,

I take the earliest opportunity of acknowledging the receipt of your letter, and the obligations I feel to you for the sentiment expressed in it; and assure you, that whatever may be the event of your solicitations in another quarter, the sentiments of friendship I feel, from a long acquaintance with you, will not be in any manner altered.

There are many points besides mere personal regard to be considered; these I must refer to the superior knowledge of my father and brother, and if the result of their inquiries is such as my presentiments sug-

gest, I have no doubt my happiness will be attended to by a permission to decide for myself.

At all events, I shall never cease to feel obliged by a preference in itself sufficiently flattering, and rendered still more so by the handsome manner in which it is expressed; and I hope, if my parents should see cause to decline the proposed favor of your alliance, it will not produce such disunion between our families, as to deprive us of friends, who possess a great portion of our esteem and regard.

I am, sir,

Your obliged and sincere friend,
And humble servant.

LETTER XXIX.

From a Gentleman to a young Lady of a superior fortune.

MADAM,

I can no longer do so great violence to my inclinations, and injustice to your charms and merits, as to retain within my own breast those sentiments of esteem and affection with which you have inspired me.

I should have hazarded this discovery much sooner, but was restrained by a dread of meeting censure for my presumption in aspiring to the possession of a lady, whom

beauty, wit, and fortune, have conspired to raise so high above my reasonable expectations.

You have judgment enough both of your own good qualities, and the character of those with whom you converse, to make a proper estimate of my sincerity on this occasion. I am above deceit, and have not therefore, at any period of our acquaintance, pretended to be a man of greater property than I am, which conduct I hope will tend to convince you of my general sincerity.

Believe me, my dearest A——, were our circumstances reversed, I should hardly take to myself the credit of doing a generous action, in overlooking the consideration of wealth, and making you an unreserved tender of my hand and fortune.

I shall await your answer in a state of unpleasant impatience, and therefore rely on your humanity not to keep me long in suspense.

I am, madam,

Your most humble servant.

LETTER XXX.

The Answer.

Sir,

Giving you credit, as I do, for an elevation of mind capable of the most generous

sentiments, I cannot believe you guilty of the meanness of speculation on the heart of a lady, with a view to her property.

Knowing your accomplished manners, and cultivated understanding, I feel the greatest obligation to you for the polite and affectionate declaration contained in your letter. In an affair of so much importance, however, I must refer myself entirely to the discretion of my father. At the same time I must caution you against feeling hurt at minute inquiries, and resolute objections, which perhaps may be made; young people think too little of wealth, old ones, *perhaps*, too much; but I know my father's prudence and kindness so well, as to pledge myself to abide by his final decision, whatever pain it may cost me.

Yet I advise you not to despair of success, as you will find a warm and zealous advocate in

Your sincere friend and humble servant.

LETTER XXXI

From a Gentleman of some fortune who had seen a Lady in public, to her mother.

MADAM,

I shall be very happy if you are not altogether unacquainted with the name which is at the bottom of this letter, since that will

prevent me the necessity of saying some things concerning myself, which had better be heard from others. Hoping that it may be so, I shall not trouble you on that head ; but only say, that I have the honor to be of a family not mean, and not wholly without a fortune.

I was yesterday, madam, at the rehearsal at St. Paul's, and have been informed, that a lady who commanded my attention there, has the happiness to be your daughter.

It is on account of that lady that I now write to you ; but I am aware you will say this is a rash and idle manner of attempting an acquaintance. I have always been of opinion that nothing deserves censure which is truly honorable and undisguised. I take the freedom to tell you, madam, that I believe your daughter worthy of a much better offer ; but I am assured my happiness will depend upon her accepting or refusing this. In the first place, I request to know whether the lady be engaged, for I am an entire stranger ; and, if she be not, I beg, that after you have informed yourself who it is that requests the honor of being introduced to her, you will do me the singular favor of letting me be answered. I am very much an enemy, madam, to the usual nonsense upon these occasions : but it would be doing injustice to myself to conclude without saying, that my mind will

be very little at ease until I know how this address is received. I have the honor to be, with the greatest respect, madam,

Your very obedient and humble servant.

LETTER XXXII.

*From a Mother to a Gentleman, who had asked permission to address her Daughter:
In answer.*

SIR,

The letter which you have done me the honor to write to me, speaks you to be a gentleman and a man of sense. I am sorry to acquaint you, that after such a prepossession in your favor, I am for more than one reason to decline the offer you are pleased to make towards an alliance in my family. My daughter is very dear to me ; and I think she has cast an eye elsewhere ; I think there is something indelicate and improper in this wild manner of engaging in an attachment, and in pleading in favor of it. I wish you had known my daughter more before you spoke so much, and had met with me among our acquaintance, to have mentioned it. I am convinced, sir, that I do not think more of you than I may with justice, when I confess to you that I believe you would be more than an equal match for my daughter ; for though she has (and suffer me, sir, although I

am her mother, to say it) great merit, her fortune, although not quite inconsiderable, is not great. You will see, sir, that I waver in my opinion on that subject; but you must attribute it to the same cause; and believe every thing which has, be it ever so remote, a tendency to my daughter's welfare, will make me very cautious of determining.

To give you my final sense, (at least what is final to me at present) I have not a thought of asking who it is that has thus favored us, nor would advise my daughter to remember it. I thank you, sir, in her name as well as my own, for the honor you intended us, and am, sir,

Your most obedient servant

LETTER XXXIII.

*From a young Tradesman to a Gentleman,
desiring permission to visit his Daughter.*

SIR,

I flatter myself that the integrity of my intentions will excuse the freedom of these few lines, whereby I am to acquaint you of the great regard and esteem I have for your daughter. I would not, sir, attempt any indirect address, that should have the least appearance of inconsistency with her duty to you, and my honorable views to her, choosing, by your influence, if I may ap-

prove myself to you worthy of that honor, to commend myself to her approbation. You are not insensible, sir, by the credit I have hitherto preserved in the world, of my ability, with God's blessing, to make her happy. This the rather emboldens me to request the favor of an evening's conversation with you, at your first convenience; when I will more fully explain myself, as I earnestly hope, to your satisfaction, and take my encouragement or discouragement from your own mouth. I am, sir, in the mean time, with great respect and esteem,

Your most obedient humble servant.

LETTER XXXIV.

From the same to the young Lady by permission of the Father.

Miss,

I hope I shall stand excused in venturing to make known to your honored father, the great desire I have to be thought worthy of a relation to him by your means. As he has not discouraged me in the hopes I have entertained, that I may possibly be not unacceptable to him, and to all your worthy family, I propose to do myself the honor of a visit to you next Monday. Though he has been so good as to promise to introduce me, and I make no doubt has acquainted

you with it, I nevertheless give you the trouble of these lines, that I might not appear wanting in any outward demonstration of that inviolable respect, with which I am, dear miss.

Your devoted humble servant.

LETTER XXXV.

*From a Widow to a Young Gentleman,
rejecting his suit.*

SIR,

The objections I have to make to the proposal contained in your letter are but few, but they demand some attention, and will, I believe, be rather difficult to obviate.

You are, by your account, two and twenty. I am, by mine, six and forty; you are too young to know the duties of a father. I have a son who is seventeen, and consequently too old to learn the duties of a son from one so little senior to himself. Thus much with respect to age. As to the little fortune I possess, I consider myself merely trustee for my children, and will not, therefore, impose on you, by acceding to the common report, that I am rich. However, as you have borne a lieutenant's commission these three years, as you tell me, you may, perhaps, have reserved out of

the profits of that, a sufficient sum to obviate every difficulty on that head.

I will press these subjects no farther; when you can convince me that in point of age, fortune, and morals, you are such a person, as I can, without reproach, take for a husband, and admit as a guardian to my children, I shall cease to think, as I now candidly confess I do, that motives far from honorable, or disinterested love, have influenced your application. Till that happens I must regret that an ill-timed effort of gallantry on your part deprives me of the pleasure of subscribing myself

Your sincere friend, and humble servant.

LETTER XXXVI.

From a young Lady to a Gentleman that courted her, whom she could not esteem, but was forced by her Parents to receive his visits, and think on none else for her husband.

SIR,

It is an exceedingly ill return that I make the respect you have for me, when I acknowledge to you, though the day for our marriage is appointed, I am incapable of loving you. You may have observed, in the long conversations we have had at those times that we were left together, that some

secret hung upon my mind. I was obliged to an ambiguous behavior, and durst not reveal myself further, because my mother, from a closet near the place where we sat, could both see, and hear our conversation. I have strict commands from both my parents to receive you, and am undone forever, except you be so kind and generous as to refuse me. Consider, sir, the misery of bestowing yourself upon one who can have no prospect of happiness but from your death. This is a confession made perhaps with an offensive sincerity; but that conduct is much to be preferred to a covered dislike, which could not but pall all the sweets of life, by imposing on you a companion that doats and languishes for another. I will not go so far as to say, my passion for the gentleman whose wife I am by promise, would lead me to any thing criminal against your honor. I know it is dreadful enough to a man of your sense to expect nothing but forced civilities in return for tender endearments, and cold esteem for undeserved love. If you will on this occasion let reason take place of passion, I doubt not but fate has in store for you some worthier object of your affection, in recompense of your goodness to the only woman that could be insensible of your merit. I am,

Sir, your humble servant.

LETTER XXXVII.

From a young Lady in the Country to her Father, acquainting him with an Offer made to her of Marriage.

HONORED FATHER,

My duty teaches me to acquaint you, that a gentleman of this town whose name is Smith, and by business a linen-draper, has made some overtures to my cousin Arnold, in the way of courtship to me. My cousin has brought him once or twice into my company, as he has a high opinion of him and his circumstances. He has been set up three years, possesses a very good business, and lives in credit and fashion. He is about twenty seven years old, and is likely in his person. He seems not to want sense or manners, and is come of a good family. He has broken his mind to me, and boasts how well he can maintain me; but I assure you, sir, I have given him no encouragement, yet he resolves to persevere, and pretends extraordinary affection and esteem. I would not, sir, by any means, omit to acquaint you with the beginning of an affair, that would show disobedience unworthy of your kind indulgence and affection. Pray give my humble duty to my honored mother, love to my brother and sister, and respects to all friends.

I remain your ever dutiful daughter

LETTER XXXVIII.

An Answer to the preceding.

DEAR POLLY,

Your letter of the first instant came safe to hand, wherein you acquaint me of the proposals made to you through your cousin's recommendation, by one Mr. Smith. I hope, you assure me, that you have given no encouragement to him; for I by no means approve of him for your husband. I have quired of one of his townsmen, who knows him and his circumstances very well, and I am neither pleased with him or his character. I wonder my cousin should so inconsiderately recommend him to you, though I doubt not his good intentions. I strongly urge that you think nothing more of this matter, and your mother joins with me in the same advice. Adieu, my dear girl, and believe me

Your affectionate father

LETTER XXXIX.

Another on the same occasion.

DEAR POLLY,

I have received your letter of the first instant relating to the addresses of Mr. Smith. I would advise you neither to encourage nor

discourage his suit; for if on inquiry into his character and circumstances, I find that they are answerable to your cousin's good opinion of them and his own assurances, I know not but his suit may be worthy of attention. However, my dear girl, consider that men are deceitful, and always put the best side outwards. It may possibly on the strict inquiry which the nature and importance of the case demands, come out far otherwise than it at present appears. Let me, therefore, advise you to act in this matter with great prudence, and that you make not yourself too cheap, for men are apt to slight what is too easily obtained. In the mean time he may be told that you are entirely resolved to abide by my determination in an affair of this great importance. This will put him on applying to me, who, you need not doubt, will in this case, as in all others, study your good. Your mother gives her blessing to you, and joins in the advice you here receive from

Your affectionate father.

LETTER XL.

From Mr. Smith to the young Lady's Father.

SIR,

Though personally unknown to you, I take the liberty to declare the great value and

affection I have for your amiable daughter, whom I have had the honor to see at my friend's house. I should think myself entirely unworthy of her favor and of your approbation, if I could have thought of influencing her resolution, but in obedience to your pleasure, as I should, on such a supposition, offer an injury likewise to that prudence in herself which I flatter myself is not the least of her amiable perfections. If I might have the honor of your countenance, sir, on this occasion, I would open myself and circumstances to you in that frank and honest manner, which should convince you of the sincerity of my affection for your daughter, and at the same time of the honorableness of my intentions. In the mean time I will in general, say, that I have been set up in my business, in the linen-drapery way, upwards of three years; that I have a very good trade for the time; and that I had a thousand pounds to begin with, which I have improved to fifteen hundred, as I am ready to make appear to your satisfaction; that I am descended of a creditable family, have done nothing to stain my character, and that my trade is still further improvable, as I shall, I hope, enlarge my capital. This, sir, I thought but honest and fair to acquaint you with, that you might know something of a person who sues you for your countenance, and that of your good lady, in an

affair that I hope may one day prove the greatest happiness of my life, as it must be, if I can be blessed with that and your daughter's approbation. In hopes of which, and the favor of a line, I take the liberty to subscribe myself, good sir,

Your obedient and humble servant.

LETTER XLI.

From a young Lady to a Gentleman, complaining of indifference.

SIR,

However light you may make of promises, yet I am foolish enough to consider them as something more than trifles; and am likewise induced to believe that the man who voluntarily breaks his promise, will not pay much regard to an oath; and if so, in what light must I consider your conduct? Did I not give you my promise to be yours, and had you no other cause for soliciting it than merely to gratify your vanity? A brutal gratification, indeed, to triumph over the weakness of a woman, whose greatest fault was, she loved you. I say loved you; for it was in consequence of that passion, I first consented to become yours. Has your conduct, sir, been consistent with my submission, or with your own solemn professions? Is it consistent with the character of a gen-

tleman first to obtain a woman's consent, and afterwards boast that he had discarded her, and found one more agreeable to his wishes? Do not equivocate; I have too convincing proofs of your insincerity; I saw you yesterday walking with Miss Benton, and am informed that you have promised marriage to her. Whatever you may think, sir, I have a spirit of disdain, and even resentment, equal to your ingratitude, and can treat the wretch with a proper indifference, who can make so slight a matter of the most solemn promises. Miss Benton may be your wife, but she will receive into her arms a perjured husband; nor can ever the superstructure be lasting, which is built on such a foundation. I leave you to the stings of your own conscience.

I am, the injured.

LETTER XLII.

The Gentleman's Answer.

MY DEAR GIRL,

For by that name I must still call you, has cruelty entered into your tender nature, or has some designing wretch imposed on your credulity? My dear, I am not what you have represented, I am neither false nor perjured; I never proposed marriage to Miss Benton, I never designed it; and my sole

reason for walking with her was, that I had been on a visit to her brother, whom you know is my attorney. And was it any fault in me to take a walk into the fields with him and his sister? Surely prejudice itself has imposed on you by some designing person, who had private views and private ends to answer by such baseness. But whatever may have been the cause; I am entirely innocent; and to convince you of my sincerity, beg that the day of marriage be next week. My affections never so much as wander from the dear object of my love; in you are centred all my hopes of felicity; with you only can I be happy. Keep me not in misery one moment longer, by entertaining groundless jealousies against one who loves you in a manner superior to the whole of your sex; and I can set at defiance even malice itself. Let me beg your answer by my servant, which will either make me happy or miserable. I have sent a small parcel by the bearer, which I hope you will accept as a convincing proof of my integrity, and am,

Yours forever.

LETTER XLIII.

From a Gentleman to a Lady, whom he accuses of Inconstancy.

MADAM,

You will not, I presume, be surprised at a letter in the place of a visit from one who cannot but have reason to believe it may easily be as welcome as his company.

You should not suppose, if lovers have lost their sight, that their senses are all banished : and if I refuse to believe my own eyes when they show me your inconstancy, you must not wonder that I cannot stop my ears against the accounts of it. Pray let us understand one another properly ; for I am afraid we are deceiving ourselves all this while. Am I a person whom you esteem, whose fortune you do not despise, and whose pretensions you encourage ; or am I a troublesome coxcomb, who fancy myself particularly received by a woman who only laughs at me ? If I am the latter, you treat me as I deserve ; and I ought to join with you in saying I deserve it. But if it be otherwise, and you receive me, as I think you do, as a person you intend to marry, for it is best to be plain on these occasions, pray tell me what is the meaning of that universal coquetry in public, where every fool flatters you, and you are pleased with

the meanest of them? And what can be the meaning that I am told you last night was, in particular, an hour with Mr. Marlow, and are so wherever you meet him, if I am not in company? Both of us, madam, you cannot think of; and I should be sorry to imagine, that when I had given you my heart so entirely, I shared yours with any other man.

I have said a great deal too much to you, and yet I am tempted to say more; but I shall be silent. I beg you will answer this, and I think I have a right to expect that you do it generously and fairly. Do not mistake what is the effect of the distraction of my heart, for want of respect to you. While I write thus, I dote upon you, but I cannot bear to be deceived where all my happiness is centred.

Your most unhappy, L. C.

LETTER XLIV

From a Lady to a lover, who suspects her of receiving the addresses of another. In Answer.

SIR,

Did I not make all the allowance you desire in the end of your letter, I should not answer you at all. But although I am really unhappy to find you are so, and the more

to find myself to be the occasion, I can hardly impute the unkindness and incivility of your letter to the single cause you would have me. However, as I would not be suspected of any thing that should justify such treatment from you, I think it necessary to inform you, that what you have heard has no more foundation than what you have seen: however, I wonder that others' eyes should not be as easily alarmed as yours; for instead of being blind, believe me, sir, you see more than there is. Perhaps, however, their sight may be as much sharpened by unprovoked malice, as yours by underved suspicion.

Whatever may be the end of this dispute, for I do not think so lightly of lovers' quarrels as many do, I think it proper to inform you, that I never thought favorably of any one but yourself; and I shall add that if the faults of your temper, which I once little suspected, should make me fear you too much to marry, you will not see me in that state with any other, nor courted by any man in all the world.

I did not know that the gaiety of my temper gave you uneasiness; and you ought to have told me of it with less severity. If I am particular in it, I am afraid it is a fault in my natural disposition; but I would have taken some pains to get the better of that, if I had known it was disagreeable to you.

I ought to resent this treatment more than I do, but do not insult my weakness on that head ; for a fault of that kind would want the excuse this has for my pardon ; and might not be so easily overlooked, though I could wish to do it. I should say, I would not see you to-day, but you have an advocate that pleads for you much better than you do for yourself. I desire you will first look carefully over this letter, for my whole heart is in it, and then come to me.

Yours, &c. T. B.

LETTER XLV. •

From a rich young Gentleman, to a beautiful young Lady without a fortune.

MISS SOPHIA,

It is a general reflection against the manners of the present age, that marriage is only considered as one of those methods by which avarice may be satisfied, and property increased ; that neither the character nor accomplishments of the woman are much regarded, her merit being estimated by the thousands of her fortune. I acknowledge that the accusation is too true, and to that may be ascribed many unhappy matches we daily meet with ; for how is it possible that those should ever have the same affection for each other, who were forced to comply

with terms to which they had the utmost aversion; as if they had been allowed to consult their own inclinations, and gave their hands where they had engaged their hearts. For my own part, I have been always determined to consult my own inclinations, where there is the least appearance of happiness; and having an easy independency, am not anxious about increasing it; being well convinced, that in all states the middle one is the best. I mean neither poverty nor riches; which leads me to the discovery of a passion which I have long endeavored to conceal

The opportunities which I have had of conversing with you at Mrs. A.'s have at last convinced me that merit and riches are far from being connected, and that a woman may have those qualifications necessary to adorn her sex, although adverse fortune has denied her money. I am sure that all those virtues necessary to make me happy in the married state are centred in you; and whatever objection you may have to my person, yet I hope there can be none to my character; and if you will consent to be mine, it shall be my constant study to make your life agreeable, and under the endearing character of husband, endeavor to supply your earthly loss of the best of parents. I shall expect your answer as soon as possi-

ble, for I wait for it with the utmost impatience.

I am your affectionate lover.

LETTER XLVI.

The young Lady's Answer.

Sir,

I received your letter yesterday, and gratitude for the generous proposal which you have made, obliges me to thank you heartily for the contents.

As I have no objection to either your person or character, you will give me leave to deal sincerely, and state those things which at present bear weight with me, and perhaps must ever remain unanswered, and hinder me from entering into that state against which I have not the least aversion.

You well know (at least I imagine so) that the proposal you have made to me is a secret both to your relations and friends, and would you desire me to run precipitately into the marriage state, where I have the greatest reason to fear that I should be looked upon with contempt, by those whom marriage had connected me with; I should consider myself obliged to promote the happiness of my husband; and how consistent would a step of that nature be with such a resolution? You know that I was left at

orphan, and had it not been for the pious care of Mrs. A. must have been brought up in a state of servitude. You know that I have no fortune; and were I to accept of your offer, it would lay me under such obligations as must destroy my liberty. Gratitude and love are two very different things. The one supposes a benefit received, whereas the other is a free act of the will. Suppose me raised to the joint possession of your fortune, could I call it mine unless I had brought you something as an equivalent? or, have I not great reason to fear that you yourself may consider me as under obligations inconsistent with the character of a wife? I acknowledge the great generosity of your offer, and would consider myself highly honored, could I prevail with myself to prefer to peace of mind the enjoyment of an affluent fortune. But as I have been very sincere in my answer, so let me beg that you will endeavor to eradicate a passion, which if nourished longer may prove fatal to us both.

I am, Sir,

With the greatest, &c.

LETTER XLVII.

The Gentleman's Reply.

DEAR SOPHIA,

Was it not cruel to start so many objections? or could you suppose me capable of so base an action, as to destroy your freedom, and peace of mind? or do you think that I am capable of ever forgetting you, or being happy in the enjoyment of another? for affection's sake, do not mention gratitude any more. Your many virtues entitle you to much more than I am able to give; but all that I have shall be yours. With respect to my relations, I have none to consult besides my mother and my uncle, and their consent, and even approbation, are already obtained. My mother has often declared that she preferred my happiness with a woman of virtue, to the possession of the greatest fortune; and though I forgot to mention it, yet I had communicated my sentiments to her before I had opened my mind to you. Let me beg that you will lay aside all those unnecessary scruples, which only serve to make one unhappy who is already struggling under all the anxieties of real and genuine love. It is in your power to make me happy, and none else can. Let me beg that you will not start any more objections, unless you are my real enemy: but

your tender nature cannot suffer you to be cruel. Be mine, and I am yours forever. My servant shall wait for the answer to your ever sincere lover, whose whole happiness is centred in you. I am, &c.

LETTER XLVIII.

The Lady's Answer.

SIR,

I find that when one of your sex forms a resolution, you are determined to go through, whatever be the event. Your answer to my first objection, I must confess, is satisfactory. I wish I could say so of the others: but I find that if I must comply, I shall be obliged to trust the remainder to yourself. Perhaps this is always the case, and even the most cautious have been deceived. However, sir, I have communicated the contents of your letter to Mrs. A. as you know she has been to me as a parent. She has not any objection, and I am at last resolved to comply. I must give myself up to you as a poor friendless orphan, and shall endeavor to act consistent with the rules laid down and enforced by our holy religion: and if you should so far deviate from the paths of virtue as to upbraid me with poverty, I have no friend to complain to, but God, who is the *father of the fatherless*.

But I have a better opinion of you than to entertain any such fears, if you will continue in the practice of that virtuous education which you have received. Virtue is its own reward, and I cannot be unhappy with the man who prefers the duties of religion to gaiety and dissipation.

I leave the time to your own appointment.

I am yours sincerely.

LETTER XLIX.

From a young Merchant in the city, to a widow Lady in the country.

MADAM,

Ever since I saw you at the Springs, when I was on a journey to Utica, my mind has been continually ruminating on your many accomplishments. And although it is possible this may be rejected, yet I can no longer conceal a passion which has preyed on my spirits these six weeks. I have been settled in business about three years; my success has been equal to my expectations, and is likewise increasing. My family is respectable, though not rich; and as to the disparity of our ages, a few years will not make any difference, where the affections are placed on so worthy an object. I can only say, madam, that I prefer you to

all the young ladies I have seen; and if business continues to increase, I shall be greatly in want of one of your prudence to manage my domestic affairs. Be assured, madam, that whatever time I can spare from the necessary duties of my profession, shall be devoted to your company, and every endeavor used to make your life most agreeable and happy. As you have relations in New York, they will give you every necessary information concerning my character and circumstances, although I have not the pleasure of being known to them. If you will favor me with an answer to this, it will be ever esteemed as a particular favor, and acknowledged with the sincerest respect,

By your real admirer

ON RELATIONSHIP.

LETTER L.

From a young Lady to her Parents.

I hope that my dear papa and mamma will excuse the badness of the writing of this letter, when they shall be pleased to recollect, that this is my first attempt since I have learned to join my letters together. I have long been anxious to have the pleasure of being able to write to you, and beg you will be pleased to accept this my first humble offering. As my constant study ever has been, so shall it continue to be, to convince you how much I am, my dearest parents,

Your most affectionate and dutiful daughter

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LETTER LI.

From the same to her Parents on another occasion.

My dear papa and mamma will be pleased to accept my most respectful compliments on the close of the old and commencement of the new year. As it has pleased God to give you good health during the course of the last year, I beseech him to grant you the same to the end of the present, and many more. This is a happiness your family have most earnestly to wish for, and in particular,

Your most humble and dutiful daughter.

LETTER LII.

From the same to her Mamma.

Give me leave, my dear mamma, to tell you, as well as my pen will permit me, or rather as well as my inexperienced hand is capable of directing it, how truly sensible I am of all your favors, and that I will endeavor by my conduct to merit the continuance of them. My prayers are, morning and night, offered up to Heaven for your preservation, nor are you ever in the day absent from my thoughts. May Providence

preserve you, and grant you every thing you can wish for, from the good behavior of
Your dutiful and affectionate daughter.

LETTER LIII.

From a young Lady to her Brother in the Country.

You seem, my dear Bill, to make good the old proverb, "Out of sight, out of mind." It is now two months since I received a letter from you, and you appear to forget that we little maids do not like to be treated with neglect. You must not pretend to tell me, that however fond you may be of your books, you could not find leisure to write me in all this time. They tell me that you spend the greater part of your leisure time with a little miss of about eight years of age, with whom you are very fond of reading and conversing. Take care, if I find she is withdrawing your affection from me that I do not come down, and pull her cap for her. As for yourself, if you were within the reach of my little tongue, I would give you such a peal as should make you remember it for some time to come. However, if you will write me soon, I may possibly forgive all that is past, and still consider myself as

Your most affectionate sister.

LETTER LIV.

Answer to the preceding.

I am very sorry, my dear sister, that I have given you so much reason to complain of my neglect of writing to you; but be assured that my affections for you are the same they ever were. I readily confess, that the young lady you complain of, has in some measure been the cause of it. She is as fond of reading as I am, and I believe loves you on my account; is it then possible my sister can be displeased with one so amiable? I did not tell her what you threatened her with: but I am sure, were you to come here on that errand, instead of pulling her cap, you would embrace and love her. As to what you say respecting your little tongue, I promise you I do not wish to come within reach of the sound of it, when anger sets it in motion. As this is the only thing which can render my sister less agreeable, I shall be very cautious to avoid setting the little alarm in motion, especially when I shall pay you a visit. I have bought you a most brilliant doll, which I shall bring up with me when I come to Hudson. Till then, believe me

Your most affectionate brother.

LETTER LV.

*From a Brother to a Sister in the country,
upbraiding her for being negligent in
writing.*

MY DEAR SISTER,

I write to you to acquaint you how unkindly we all take it here, that you do not write oftener to us, in relation to your health, diversions, and employments in the country. You cannot be insensible how much you are beloved by us all; judge then if you do well to omit giving us the satisfaction absence affords to true friends, which is, often to hear from one another. My mother is highly disobliged with you, and says you are a very idle girl; my aunt is of the same opinion, and I would fain, like a loving brother, excuse you if I could. Pray for the future take care to deserve a better character, and by writing soon, and often, put it in my own power to say what a good sister I have. For you shall always find me,

Your most affectionate brother,

LETTER LVI.

From the Daughter to the Mother in excuse for her neglect.

HONORED MADAM,

I am ashamed I staid to be reminded of my duty by my brother's kind letter, I will offer no excuse for myself, for not writing oftener, though I have been strangely taken up by the kindness and favor of your good friends here, particularly my aunt Windus: for well do I know that my duty to my honored mother ought to take place of all other considerations. All I beg therefore is, that you will be so good as to forgive me, on promise of amendment, and to procure forgiveness also of my aunt Rutledge, and all my friends. Believe me, madam, when I say that no diversions here or elsewhere shall make me forget the duty I owe to so good a mother, and such kind relations; and that I shall ever be

Your gratefully dutiful daughter.

P. S. My aunt and cousins desire their kind love to you, and due respects to all friends.

LETTER LVII.

From a Father to his Son at School.

I could not, my dear child, give a more convincing proof of my affection for you, than in submitting to send you to so great a distance from me. I preferred your advantage to my own pleasure, and sacrificed fondness to duty. I should have done this sooner, but I waited till my inquiries had found out a person whose character might be responsible for your education; and Mr. Browne was at length my choice for that important trust. Your obedience, therefore, must be without murmuring or reluctance; especially when you reflect that a strict attention to his appointments, and an implicit compliance with his commands, are not only to form the rule of your safe conduct in this life, but to be preparatory to your happiness in the next. With regard to your school connexions, it is impossible for me to give you any instructions at present. All that I shall now say to you on this subject is, quarrel with no one, avoid meddling with the disputes of others, unless with a view to promote an accommodation; and though I would wish you to support the dignity of a youth, be neither mean nor arrogant. I have nothing more now to add, than to pray God

to give you grace and abilities, and that your
own endeavors may second the views of
An affectionate father

LETTER LVIII.

From a Youth at School to his Father.

I am infinitely obliged to you, honored Sir, for the many favors you have bestowed upon me; all I hope is, that the progress I make in my learning will be considered as some proof how sensible I am of your kindness. Gratitude, duty, and a view to my own future advantage, equally contribute to make me thoroughly sensible how much I ought to labor for my own improvement, and your satisfaction. I have received the books you sent for my amusement. The "Princes of Persia" I have almost finished, after which I shall peruse Mrs. Chapone's Letters on the Improvement of the Mind. They please me much. The liberal allowance of money you have been pleased to make me, shall be applied in the best manner I am able. I am sure my dear father will not censure me, should I devote a part of it towards the relief of the wretched and unfortunate. Pray give my most dutiful respects to my mother, my kindest love to my brothers and sisters, and believe me, dear sir.

Your most dutiful,

And affectionate son.

LETTER LIX.

From an elder Brother to a younger one at School.

As you are now, my dear brother, gone from home, and placed in a very capital seminary of learning, I thought it not amiss to put you in mind, that childish amusements should be laid aside, and, instead of them, more serious thoughts imbibed, and things of more consequence made the objects of your attention; whereby we may add to the reputation of our family, and gain to ourselves the good esteem of being virtuous and diligent. You may judge in some measure, of the value of a good education, from the unavailing lamentations you daily hear those make, who have foolishly shrunk from the difficulties attending the various branches of scholastic education. What a difference there is between an aged man of learning, and one who totally neglected his education in his youth! The former, in the evening of his life, finds a perpetual source of amusement in the knowledge he acquired in his early days, and his company is admired and sought by all those who wish to derive understanding from the knowledge of others, improved by a long life and philosophical experience; but the ignorant old man is no company for himself, nor any one

else, unless over a pitcher or a bottle, when the assistance of a pipe will be necessary to excuse his silence. I know you have too much good nature to be offended at my advice, especially when I assure you, that I as sincerely wish your happiness and advancement in life as I do my own. We are all very well, thank God, and your friends desire to be remembered to you. Pray write as often as opportunity and leisure will permit; and be assured, that a letter from you will always give great satisfaction to your parents, but to none more than to

Your most affectionate brother.

LETTER LX

From a Father to his Son, containing general rules for agreeable conversation.

I have taken this opportunity, my dear Harry, to inform you of some things in your general conversation, which I think would be proper for you to observe and amend, particularly, your excessive fondness for talking, which equally discovers itself on all occasions. I have always considered you as a youth who does not want sense, and I am willing to hope that I am not therein deceived: but the dangerous self sufficiency of most young men, seems to have seized you in a violent degree which I hope a

little reflection will soon remove. The art of rendering yourself agreeable in conversation, is a matter worthy of your most serious study. It is an advantage which few can boast of, though all put in their claim for it; and nothing is so constant an enemy to success, in those who would excel in this art, as their harboring an opinion of their own proficiency, before they have attained to any tolerable degree of knowledge in what they imagine themselves possessed of. Conversation when rightly managed, will admit every member of the company to have a share in the pleasure and applause it affords. If a man speaks little, you must not from thence conclude that he is willing to give up every claim to conversational merit. Perhaps he cannot sing; but he certainly is as desirous of having his peculiar humor, or his dry joke applauded, as you may be for being called on for another song. Though he may be no mathematician, perhaps he is versed in religious disputation; if he despise plays, he may admire history; though he understand not geography, he may know how to describe the humors of mankind; and though he pretends not to politics, he may have a turn for some more useful science. When these things are considered, if his modesty be great, you cannot oblige him more than by giving him an opportunity to display his capacity on the subject he be-

believes himself most able to handle with advantage; for in order to support a thorough good humor, a man must be pleased with himself as well as with others. When this is properly managed, conversation seldom fails to prove entertaining; and to the neglect of this are owing many of the yawning hours, spent in companies composed of men not capable of behaving agreeably. The manner of telling a story is also worth your notice, and you have known the pleasure of hearing a long one well told. Mr. Jackson has an admirable talent in that way; but then you must observe, that half the pleasure he gives arises from his happily avoiding any of the silly digressions which are the great cause of a story seeming tedious. You never hear him mingle his relations with, "I remember very well, it was the same day that 'squire Thompson's son came of age—I bought my bay nag the day before at auction. I can scarce think of it without laughing. But, however, as I was saying," and a hundred more such dead weights to attention. Nor does he ever praise a story before he relates it; a fatal rock to many a good tale. When a story wants a preparatory recommendation, it is not worth telling; and even when the relation is tolerable, the generality of auditors are apt to persuade themselves, "the mountain's labor has procured only a mouse." These are loose and

general hints ; but by a due improvement of them, you will find yourself very sensibly growing more and more agreeable, whenever you converse. An easy and becoming freedom you have already, and by the addition of discretion in the use of it, and complaisance to others, you will probably succeed in your wish of becoming amiable in the opinion of men of sense and judgment, which should you accomplish it, will add much to the pleasure of

Your affectionate father

LETTER LXI.

From an Uncle to a Nephew on his keeping bad company, bad hours, &c. in his apprenticeship.

DEAR NEPHEW,

I am very much concerned to hear, that you are of late fallen into bad company ; that you keep bad hours, and give great uneasiness to your master, and break the rules of his family. That when he expostulates with you on this account, you return pert and bold answers ; and instead of your promising or endeavoring to amend, repeat the offence ; and have entered into clubs and societies of young fellows, who set at nought all good example, and make such persons as would do their duty, the subject of ridicule,

as persons of narrow minds, and who want the courage to do as they do.

Let me on this occasion expostulate with you, and set before you the evil of the way you are in.

In the first place : What can you mean by breaking the rules of a family you had bound yourself by contract to observe ? Do you think it honest, to break through engagements into which you have solemnly entered ; and which are no less the rules of the corporation you are to be one day free of, than those of a private family ? Seven years, several of which are elapsed, is not so long a term but that you may see it terminate before you are over fit to be trusted with your own conduct : Twenty-one or twenty-two years of age is full early for a young man to be his own master, whatever you may think ; and you may surely stay till then at least, to choose your own hours, and your own company : and I fear as you go on, if you do not mend your ways, your discretion will not then do credit to your choice. Remember you have no time you can call your own, during the continuance of your contract ; and must you abuse your master in a double sense ? rob him of his time, especially if any of it be hours of business ? rob him of his rest ; break the peace of his family, and give a bad example to others ? And all for what ? Why to riot in the com-

pany of a set of persons, who condemn, as they teach you to do, all order and discipline; who, in all likelihood, will lead you into gaming, drinking, swearing, and even more dangerous vices, to the unhinging of your mind from your business, which must be your future support.

Consider, I exhort you, in time, to what these courses may lead you. Consider the affliction you will give to all your friends, by your continuance in them. Lay together the substance of the conversation that passes in a whole evening, with your frothy companions, after you have come from them, and reflect what solid truth, what useful lessons, worthy of being inculcated in your future life, that whole evening has afforded you; and consider whether it is worth breaking through all rule and order for it. Whether your present conduct is such as you would allow in a servant of your own? Whether you are so capable to pursue your business with that ardor and delight next morning, as if you had not drank or kept bad hours over night? If not, whether your master has not a double loss and damage from your mis-spent evenings? Whether the taking of small liberties, as you may think them, leads you not to greater? For let me tell you, you will not find it in your power to stop when you will. And then,

whether any restraint at all will not in time be irksome to you ?

I have gone through the like servitude with pleasure and credit. I found myself my own master full soon for my discretion. What you think of yourself I know not ; but I wish you may do as well for your own interest and reputation too, as I have done for mine : and I'll assure you I should not have thought it either creditable or honest to do as you do. I could have stood the laugh of an hundred such vain companions as you choose, for being too narrow minded to break through all moral obligations to my master, in order to show the bravery of a bad heart, and what an abandoned mind dared to perpetrate. A bad beginning seldom makes a good ending ; and if you were assured that you could stop when you come to act for yourself, which is very improbable, how will you answer it to equity and a good conscience, that you will not do so for your master ? There is, let me tell you, more true bravery of mind in forbearing to do an injury, than in giving offence.

You are now at an age, when you should study to improve, not divert your faculties. You should now lay in a fund of knowledge, that in time, when ripened by experience, may make you a worthy member of the commonwealth. Do you think you have nothing to learn, either as to your business, or as to

the forming of your mind? Would it not be much better to choose the silent, sober conversation of books, than of such companions as never read or think? An author never commits any but his best thoughts to paper; but what can you expect from the laughing, noisy company you keep, but frothy, prating, indigested notions, and thoughts so unworthy of being remembered, that it is the greatest wisdom to forget them?

Let me entreat you, then, my dear kinsman, for your family's sake, for your own sake, before it be too late, to reflect as you ought upon the course you have entered into. By applying yourself to books, instead of such vain company, you will be qualified in time for the best of company, and be respected by all ranks of men. This will keep you out of unnecessary expenses, will employ all your leisure time, will exclude a world of temptations, and finally set you above that wretched company which now you seem so much delighted with. And one thing let me recommend to you, that you keep a list of the young men of your standing within the compass of your knowledge, and for the next seven years observe what fate will attend them: See if those who follow not the course you have so lately entered into, will not appear in a very different light from those who do: and for the indus-

try and prosperity of the one, and the decay or failure of the other, (if their vain ways do not blast them before or as soon as they begin the world) you will find abundant reason every day to justify the truth of the observations I have thrown together. As nothing but my affection for you could possibly influence me to these expostulations, I hope for a proper effect from them, if you would be thought well of by, or expect any favor from,

Your loving uncle.

P. S. Your master will, at my request, send me word of the success of my remonstrance

LETTER LXII.

An Uncle in answer to a Nephew complaining of Hardships in his Apprenticeship.

DEAR NEPHEW,

I am sorry you should have any misunderstanding with your master: I have a good opinion of him, and am unwilling to entertain a bad one of you. It is so much a master's interest to use his apprentices well, that I am disposed to think, that when they are badly used, it is much oftener the effect of provocation than choice. Wherefore, before I give myself the trouble of interposing in

your behalf, I desire you will strictly inquire of yourself, whether you have not, by some misconduct or other, provoked that alteration in your master's behavior of which you so much complain. If, after having diligently complied with this request, you assure me you are not sensible of having given cause of disgust on your side, I will readily use my endeavors to reconcile you to your master or procure you another. But if you find yourself blamable, it will be better for you to remove, by your own amendment, the occasion of your master's displeasure, than to have me or any other friend, offer to plead your excuse, where you know it would be unjust to defend you. If this should be your case, all your friends together could promise your better behavior, indeed; but as the performance must even then be your own, it will add much more to your character to pass through your whole term, without any interposition between you. . Weigh what I have here said; and remember that your future welfare depends greatly on your present behavior.

I am your loving kinsman

LETTER LXIII.

From a Mother to her Son, in answer to his complaints of Hardships in his Apprenticeship.

I am very sorry my dear Sammy, to hear that your master and you do not agree so well as I could wish. I was always afraid you would expect the same indulgence when you got abroad into the world, as you experienced when at home. You know, that in many instances, I have endeavored to make seeming hardships as easy to you as I could, but if this makes you more difficult to be satisfied, it would be a great trouble to me. Your uncle tells me, I am afraid with too much truth, that the indulgences you have received from me, have made your present situation more disagreeable than it otherwise would have been. Whatever I have done for you, was always intended for your good, and nothing could so deeply afflict me as to see my tenderness have a mischievous effect. Therefore my dear child, to my constant care for you, do not add the sorrow of my seeing it the cause of your behaving worse than if I had been less tender to you. Before we put you to your master, we had a very pleasing account of him from all his neighbors, and those who had any dealings with him. As Mr. James, who is now out

of his time, gives him the best of characters, and declares your mistress to be a woman of great prudence and good conduct; I know not how to think they would in any respect use you ill. Consider, my dear, you must not in any other woman than myself, expect to find a fond and perhaps partial mother; for the little failings which I could not see in you, will conspicuously appear to other persons. My affection for you would make me wish you to be always with me; but as that would be inconsistent with your future welfare, and as you must certainly be a gainer from the situation you are now in, let a desire to promote my happiness as well as your own, make every seeming difficulty light. I have desired your uncle to interpose in this matter, and he will write to you soon. He has promised to see justice done you, provided your complaints are founded on reason. Believe me, my dear child,

Your affectionate Mother

LETTER LXIV.

From a young Man who had eloped from his apprenticeship, to his father, desiring him to intercede with his Master to take him again into his service.

HONORED SIR,

With shame arising from a consciousness of guilt, I have presumed to write to you at this time. I doubt not but you have heard of the irregularities in my conduct, which at last proceeded so far, as to induce me to desert the service of the best of masters. Filled with the deepest contrition, and sensible of my folly and ingratitude, I know not of a more powerful advocate to intercede for me, than my honored, though justly offended parent. It was the allurements of vicious company that first tempted me to forsake the path of virtue, and neglect my duty in a family, where I was treated with the greatest tenderness. Fully sensible of my fault, I am willing to make every reparation in my power; but I know not of any other, than by acting diametrically opposite to my former conduct. Let me entreat you to intercede with my worthy master to take me again into his service, and my whole future life shall be one continued act of gratitude.

I am, sir, your affectionate,
Though undutiful son.

LETTER LXV.

The Father's Answer.

MY DEAR CHILD,

If you ever live to be a father, you will know what I feel for you on the present occasion. Tenderness as a parent: resentment on account of ingratitude, a real concern for your future happiness, and respect for the worthy man whose service you deserted, all conspire together to agitate my mind to different purposes; but paternal affection becomes predominant, and I am obliged to act as your friend, although I am afraid you have considered me as your enemy. I have written to your master, and just now received his answer; copies of which I have not enclosed. Your master is willing again to receive you into his service, and I hope your behavior will be correspondent to so much lenity.

I am your affectionate father.

LETTER LXVI.

The Father to the Master.

WORTHY FRIEND,

I have often written to you with pleasure: but, alas! I am constrained at present to address myself to you on a subject I lit-

tle expected. I have just now received a letter from my son, by which I am informed, that he has left your service, through the instigation of evil company. His letter contains a penitential acknowledgment of his offence, together with a declaration of his resolution to act consistently with his duty for the future. He has begged of me to intercede with you in his behalf, and I know your humanity will excuse parental affection. If you will again receive the unhappy youth into your family, I have great reason to hope that his conduct will be equal to his promise; and it will confer a lasting obligation on an afflicted parent, and oblige

Your sincere friend and well-wisher.

LETTER LXVII.

*From an Apprentice to his Father in praise
of his Master and Family.*

HONORED SIR,

I know it will be a great satisfaction to you and my dear mother to hear that I go on very happily in my business; and my master, seeing my diligence, puts me forward, and encourages me in such a manner that I have great delight in it, and I hope shall answer in time, your good wishes and expectations, and the indulgence which you have always shown to me. There is such good order in

the family, as well on my mistress' part as on my master's, that every servant knows his duty and does it with pleasure. So much evenness, sedateness and regularity, is observed in all they enjoin or expect, that it is impossible but it should be so. My master is an honest, worthy man; every body speaks well of him. My mistress is a cheerful, sweet tempered woman, and rather heals breaches than widens them. And the children, after such examples, behave to us all like one's own brothers and sisters. Who can but love such a family? I wish when it shall please God to put me in such a station, that I may carry myself just as my master does; and if I should ever marry, have just such a wife as my mistress: And then, by God's blessing, I shall be as happy as they are; and as you, sir, and my dear mother, have always been. If any thing can make me still happier than I am, or continue to me my present felicity, it will be the continuance of yours and my good mother's prayers, for, honored sir and madam,

Your ever dutiful son.

LETTER LXVIII.

*From a Mother in Town, to her Daughter
at a Boarding School, in the Country.*

DEAR CHILD,

Although we are separated in person, yet you are never absent from my thoughts, and it is my continual practice to recommend you to the care of that Being, whose eyes are on all his creatures, and to whom the secrets of all hearts are open: But I have been lately somewhat alarmed, because your two last letters do not run in that strain of unaffected piety as formerly. What, my dear, is this owing to? Does virtue appear to you as unpleasant? Is your beneficent Creator a hard master, or are you resolved to embark in the fashionable follies of the gay and unthinking world? Excuse me, my dear, I am a mother, and a concern for your happiness is connected with my own. Perhaps I am mistaken, and what I have considered as a fault may be only the effusions of youthful gaiety. I shall consider it in that light, and be extremely glad, yea, happy, to find it so. Useful instructions are never too often inculcated, and, therefore, give me leave again to put you in mind of that duty, the performance of which alone can make you happy both in time and in eternity.

Religion, my dear, is a dedication of the whole heart to the will of God, and virtue is the actual operation of that truth which diffuses itself through every part of our conduct : Its consequences are equally beneficial as its promises : " Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace." Whilst the gay, unthinking part of youth are devoting the whole of their time to fashionable pleasures, how happy should I be to hear that my child was religious without hypocritical austerity, and even gay with innocence. Let me beg that you will spend at least one hour each day in perusing your Bible, and some of our best English writers, and don't imagine that religion is such a gloomy thing as some enthusiasts have represented. No, it indulges you in every worthy and rational amusement, so far as it is consistent with morality : it forbids nothing but what is hurtful.

Let me beg you will consider attentively what I have written, and send me an answer as soon as you can.

I am your affectionate mother.

LETTER LXIX.

The Answer.

HONORED MADAM,

I am so much affected by the perusal of your really parental advice, that I can scarcely hold the pen to write an answer: but duty to the best of parents, obliges me to make you easy in your mind before I take any rest to myself. That levity so conspicuous in my former letters is too true to be denied, nor do I desire to draw a veil over my own folly. No, madam, I freely confess it; but with the greatest sincerity I must at the same time declare, that they were written in a careless manner, without considering the character of the person to whom they were addressed. I am fully sensible of my error, and on all future occasions shall endeavor to avoid giving the least offence. The counsels you sent me in your valuable letter, want no enconium; all that I desire is to have them engraven on my heart. My dear madam, I love religion, I love virtue, and I hope no consideration will ever lead me from those duties, in which alone I expect future happiness. Let me beg to hear from you often, and I hope that my whole future conduct will convince the best of parents, that I am what she wishes me to be.

I am, honored madam,

Your dutiful daughter.

LETTER LXX.

*From a young Woman just gone to service
in Boston, to her Mother in the Country.*

DEAR MOTHER,

It is now a month that I have been at Mr. Wilson's, and thankful that I like my place so well. My master and mistress are both worthy people, and greatly respected by all their neighbors. At my first coming were a thought every thing strange, and wondered to see such multitudes of people in the streets; but what I suffer most from is the remembrance of yours and my father's kindness; but I begin to be more reconciled to my state, as I know you are not able to support me at home. I return you a thousand thanks for the kind advice you were so good as to give me at parting, and I shall endeavor to practice it as long as I live. Let me hear from you as often as you have an opportunity: So with my duty to you and my father, and kind love to all friends, I remain ever,

Your most dutiful daughter

The Mother's Answer.

LETTER LXXI.

MY DEAR CHILD,

I am glad to hear that you reside in so worthy a family. You know that we never should have parted with you had it not been for your good. If you continue virtuous and obliging, all the family will love and esteem you. Keep yourself employed as much as you can, and be always ready to assist your fellow servants. Never speak ill of anybody; but when you hear a bad story, try to soften it as much as you can: don't repeat it again, but let it slip out of your mind as soon as possible. I am in great hopes that all the family are kind to you, from the good character I have heard of them. If you have any time to spare from your business, I hope you will spend some part of it in reading your Bible, and other religious books. I pray for you daily, and there is nothing I desire more than my dear child's happiness. Remember that the more faithful you are in the discharge of your duty as a servant, the better you will prosper if you live to have a family of your own. Your father desires his blessing, and your brothers and sisters, their kind love to you. Heaven bless you, my dear child; and continue you to be a comfort to us all, and in particular

Your affectionate mother.

LETTER LXXII.

To a young Trader, generally in a hurry of Business, advising method as well as diligence.

DEAR NEPHEW,

The affection I have always borne you, as well for your own sake as for your late father's and mother's, makes me give you the trouble of these lines, which I hope you will receive as kindly as I intend them.

I have lately called upon you several times, and have as often found you in an extraordinary hurry; which I well know cannot be sometimes avoided; but perhaps need not be always the case, if your time were disposed in regular and proper proportions to your business. I have frequently had reason to believe, that more than half the flutter, which appears among traders in general, is rather the effect of their indolence, than of their industry, however willing they are to have it thought otherwise; and I will give you one instance in confirmation of this opinion in a neighbor of mine

This gentleman carried on for some years a profitable business: but indulging himself every evening in a tavern society or club, which the promotion of business (as is usu-

ally the case) gave the first pretence for, he looked upon those engagements as the natural consequence of the approach of night; and drove on his business in the day with precipitation, that he might get thither with the earliest. He seldom kept very late hours, though he never came home soon. The night being gone, and his bottle emptied, the morning was always wanted to dispel the fumes of the wine. Whoever therefore came to him before nine, was desired to call again; and when he rose, so many matters waited for him, as directly threw him into a flutter: so that from his rising until dinner time, he seemed in one continued ferment. A long dinner time he allowed himself, in order to recover the fatigues he had undergone; and all his table talk was, how heavy his business lay upon him! and what pains he took in it! The hearty meal, and the time he indulged himself at table, begat a disinclination for any more business for that short afternoon; so all that could be deferred, was put off to the next morning; and longing for evening's approach, he flies to his usual solace; empties his bottle by eleven; comes home; gets to bed; and is invisible till next morning at nine; and then rising, enters upon his usual hurry and confusion.

Thus did his life seem to those who saw him in his business, one constant scene of fatigue, though he scarce ever applied to it

four regular hours in any one day. And what, to cut my story short, was the substance of the matter? Why meeting with some disappointments and losses (as all traders must expect, and ought to provide for) and his customers not seeing him in his store so much as they expected, and when there, always in a disobliging, petulant hurry; and moreover, mistakes frequently happening through the flurry into which he puts himself and every one about him; by these means his business dwindled away insensibly, and not being able to go out of his usual course, which helped to impair both his capacity and ardor in his business, his creditors began to examine him, and he was compelled to render a statement of his affairs; and then had the mortification to find a balance of 2000 dollars against him.

This was a shocking case to himself, but worse to his family; for his wife had lived, and his children had been educated, in such a manner, as induced them to hope their fortunes would be sufficient to place them in a state of independence.

In short, being obliged to quit a business he had managed with so little prudence, his friends got him upon a charitable foundation, which afforded him bare subsistence for himself; his children were dispersed some one way and some another, into low

scenes of life, and his wife went home to her friends, to be snubbed and reflected on by her own family, for faults not her own. This example will afford several good hints to a young tradesman, which are too obvious to need expatiating upon; and as, I dare say, your prudence will keep you from the like fault, you will never have reason to reproach yourself on this score. But yet, as I always found you in a hurry when I called upon you, I could not but give you this hint, for fear you should not rightly proportion your time to your business, and lest you should suspend to the next hour what you could and ought to do in the present, and so did not keep your business properly under. Method is every thing in business, next to diligence. And you will, by falling into a regular one, always be calm and unruffled, and have time to spend in your shop with your customers; the female ones especially, who always make a great many words in their bargains, and expect to be humored and persuaded; and, how can any man find time for this, if he prefers the tavern to his store, and his bed to his business. I know you will take in good part what I have written, because you are sensible how much I am your truly affectionate, &c.

LETTER LXXIII.

From a Father to his Son, on his negligence in his affairs.

DEAR JEMMY,

You cannot imagine what a concern your carelessness and indifferent management of your affairs give me. Remissness is inexcusable in all men, but none so much as in a man of business, the soul of which is industry, diligence, and punctuality.

Let me beg you to shake off this idle habits you have contracted; quit unprofitable company, and unseasonable recreations, and apply to your counting house with diligence. It may not yet be too late to retrieve your affairs. Inspect therefore your gains, and cast up what proportion they bear to your expenses: and then see which of the latter you can and which you cannot contract. Consider, that when once a man suffers himself to go backward in the world, it must be an uncommon spirit of industry that retrieves him and puts him forward again.

Reflect, I beseech you, before it be too late, upon the inconveniences which an impoverished trader is put to, for the remainder of his life; which, too, may happen to be the prime part of it; the indignities he is likely to suffer from those whose money he has unthinkingly squandered; the con-

tempt he will meet with from all, not excepting the idle companions of his folly; the injustice he does his family, in depriving his children, not only of the power of raising themselves, but of living tolerably; and how, on the contrary, from being born to a creditable expectation, he sinks them into the lowest class of mankind, and, exposes them to most dangerous temptations. What has not such a father to answer for! and all this for the sake of indulging himself in an idle, a careless, a thoughtless habit, that cannot afford the least satisfaction, beyond the present hour, if in that; and which must be attended with deep remorse, when he begins to reflect. Think seriously of these things, and in time resolve on such a course as may bring credit to yourself, justice to all you deal with, peace and pleasure to your own mind, comfort to your family; and which will give at the same time the highest satisfaction to

Your careful and loving father.

LETTER LXXIV

The Son's grateful Answer.

HONORED SIR,

I return you my sincere thanks
your seasonable reproof and advice. I
indeed too much indulged myself in a

careless habit; and had already begun to feel the evil consequences of it, when I received your letter, in the insults of a creditor or two, from whom I expected kinder treatment. But, indeed, they wanted but their own, so I could only blame myself, who had brought their rough usage upon me. Your letter came so seasonably upon this, that I hope it will not want its desired effect; and as I think it is not yet too late, I am resolved to take another course with myself and my affairs, that I may avoid the ill consequences you so judiciously forewarn me of, and give to my family and friends the pleasure they so well deserve at my hand; and particularly that satisfaction to so good a father, which is owing to him by his

Most dutiful son.

LETTER LXXV.

From a Father to a Daughter, in dislike of her intentions to marry at too early an age.

DEAR SALLY,

I was greatly surprised at the letter you sent me last week. I was willing to believe I saw in you, for your years, so much of your late dear mother's temper, prudence, and virtuous disposition, that I refused several advantageous offers of changing my own

condition, purely for your sake: And will you now convince me so early, that I have no return to expect from you, but that the moment a young fellow throws himself in your way, you have nothing else to do but to give me notice to provide a fortune for you? and that you intend to be of no further use and service to me? This, in plain English, is the meaning of your notification. For I suppose your young man does not intend to marry you without a fortune. And can you then think, that a father has nothing to do, but to confer benefits on his children, without being entitled to expect any return from them.

To be sure I had purposed, at a proper time, to find a husband for you; but I thought I had yet three or four years to come. For, consider, Sally, you are not fully sixteen years of age: and a wife, believe me, ought to have some better qualifications than an agreeable person, to preserve a husband's esteem, though it often is enough to attract a lover's notice.

Have you experience enough, think you, discreetly to conduct the affairs of a family? I thought you as yet not quite capable to manage my house; and I am sure, my judgment always took a bias in your favor.

Besides, let me tell you, I have great expectations to the person, and think him by no means the man I would choose for your hus-

band. For which, if it be not too late, I will give you good reasons.

On the whole, you must expect, if you marry without my consent, to live without my assistance. Think it not hard: your disappointment cannot be greater than mine, if you will proceed. I have never used violent measures to you on any occasion, and shall not on this. But yet I earnestly hope you will not hurry yourself to destruction, and me perhaps to the grave, by an action which a little consideration may so easily prevent.

I am your afflicted father.

LETTER LXXVI.

From an elder to a younger Brother, cautioning him in the choice of a Wife.

DEAR WILLIAM,

Your interest is more the object of my thoughts than you, perhaps, imagine. Though you are younger than I, yet my duty requires my care for your good, and particularly in a point that may be so material to your whole life, as is that of love. Miss Howard is amiable on many accounts; her features are regular, her wit sprightly, her deportment genteel, and her voice, I had almost said, ravishing. Yet I greatly fear, with all these endowments, she will not

make the wife you ought to wish for. Her airy flights and gay behavior are pleasing as a partner in conversation ; but, will they be equally agreeable in a partner for life? What now charms you, charms all others. Though she is delightful in company, are you satisfied she will be as agreeable when alone with you, or when she has not an opportunity of figuring away in company ; what you, perhaps, may not approve? She now sees nobody but whom she chooses to see ; if she should be a wife, it is more than probable she may dislike restraints ; and can you approve of a diffuse conversation in one you desire to yourself? Think not, brother, that I have any interested motive for this advice : for I assure you I have not. I am not your rival, nor desire the lady you seem too fond of. As very few prudent matches are made by young gentlemen at your age, I caution you against thinking of a young woman who may be a suitable companion to a gentleman whose station and choice lead him into much company and gay life ; but to men whose circumstances require a more retired way of life, it is obvious a woman, whose talents lie principally in conversation, can never for that reason only, justify a young gentleman for choosing her for a wife. Shut not your ears to reason, forget not yourself, and be sure to remember, that the pleasure of an hour or two, and

that of twenty, thirty, or forty years, or a whole life, must arise from very different sources.

I am, dear brother,

Yours most affectionately.

LETTER LXXVII.

From a daughter to her Father pleading for her Sister, who had married without his consent.

HONORED SIR,

The kind indulgence you have always shown to your children, makes me presume to become an advocate for my sister, though not for her fault. She is very sensible of that, and sorry she has offended you; but has great hopes that Mr. Robinson will prove such a careful and loving husband to her, as may atone for her past wildness, and engage your forgiveness: for all of your children are sensible of your paternal kindness, and that you wish their good, more for their sakes than your own.

This makes it the more wicked to offend so good a father: but, dear sir, be pleased to consider, that it cannot now be helped, and that she may be made by your displeasure very miserable in her choice; and that his faults are owing to the inconsideration of youth: otherwise, it would not have been a

very discreditable match, had it had your approbation. I could humbly hope for my poor sister's sake, that you will be pleased rather to encourage his present good resolutions by your kind favor, than to make him despair of a reconciliation, and so perhaps treat her with a negligence, which hitherto she is not apprehensive of; for he is really very fond of her, and I hope will continue so. Yet is she dejected for her fault to you, and wishes yet dreads to have your leave to throw herself at your feet, to beg your forgiveness and blessing, which would make the poor dear offender quite happy.

Pardon, sir, my interposing in her favor, in which my husband also joins. She is my sister. She is your daughter; though she has not done so worthily as I wish, to become that character. Be pleased, sir, to forgive her, however; and also forgive me, pleading for her; who am

Your ever dutiful daughter

LETTER LXXVIII.

The Father's Answer.

DEAR NANCY,

You must believe that your sister's unadvised marriage, which she must know would be disagreeable to me, gives me no small concern; and yet I will assure you

that it arises more from my affection for her, than any other consideration. In her education I took all the pains and care my circumstances would admit, and often flattered myself with the hope that the happy fruits of it would be made to appear in her prudent conduct. What she has now done is not vicious, but indiscreet; you must remember, that I have often declared in her hearing, that the wild assertion of a rake making a good husband, was the most dangerous opinion a young woman could imbibe.

I will not, however, in pity to her, point out the many ills I am afraid will attend her rashness, because it is done, and cannot be helped; but wish she may be happier than I ever saw a woman who leaped so fatal a precipice.

Her husband has this morning been with me for her fortune; and it was with much decision I told him, that as all she could hope for was wholly at my disposal, I should disburse it in such a manner as I thought would most contribute to her advantage; and that as he was a stranger to me, I should choose to know how he deserved it, before he had the power over what I intended for her. He bit his lip, and with a hasty step was my humble servant.

Tell the rash girl I would not have her

to be afflicted at this behavior in me; for I know it will contribute to her advantage one way or other; if he married her for her own sake, she will find no alteration of behavior from this disappointment; but if he married only for her money, she will soon be glad to find it in my possession, rather than his.

Your interposition in her behalf is very sisterly: and you see I have not the resentment she might expect. But I truly wish that she had acted with your prudence! for her own sake I wish it.

I am your loving father.

LETTER LXXIX.

From a daughter to a Father, wherein she dutifully expostulates against a match he had proposed to her, with a Gentleman much older than herself.

HONORED SIR,

Though your injunctions should prove diametrically opposite to my own secret inclinations, yet I am not insensible that the duty which I owe you binds me to comply with them. Besides, I should be very ungrateful, should I presume, in any point whatever, considering your numberless acts of parental indulgence towards me, to contest your will and pleasure. Though the conse-

quences therefore should prove ever so fatal, I am determined to be all obedience, in case what I have to offer in my own defence should have no influence over you, or be thought an insufficient plea for my aversion to a match, which, unhappily for me, you seem to approve of. It is very possible, sir, the gentleman you recommend to my choice, may be possessed of all that substance, and all those good qualities, that bias you so strongly in his favor; but be not angry, dear sir, when I remind you that there is a vast disproportion in our years. A lady of more experience and of more advanced age, would, in my humble opinion, be a more fit help-mate for him. To be ingenuous (permit me, good sir, to speak the sentiments of my heart without reserve for once) a man, almost in his grand climacteric, can never be an agreeable companion for me: nor can the natural gaiety of my temper, which has hitherto been indulged by yourself in every innocent amusement, be over agreeable to him. Though his fondness at first may connive at the little freedoms I shall be apt to take; yet as soon as the edge of his appetite shall be abated, he will grow jealous, and forever torment me without a cause. I shall be debarred of every diversion suitable to my years, though ever so harmless and inoffensive; permitted to see no company; hurried down perhaps to some melancholy

rural recess: and there, like my lady Grace in the play, sit pensive and alone, under a green tree. Your long experienced goodness, and that tender regard, which you have always expressed for my ease and satisfaction, encourage me thus freely to expostulate with you on an affair of so great importance. If, however, after all, you shall judge the inequality of our age an insufficient plea in my favor, and that want of affection for a husband is but a trifle, where there is a large fortune, and a coach and six to throw into the scale; if, in short, you shall lay your peremptory commands upon me to resign all my real happiness and peace of mind for the vanity of living in pomp and grandeur, I am ready to submit to your superior judgment. Give me leave however, to observe, that it is impossible for me ever to love the man into whose arms I am to be thrown, and that my compliance with so detested a proposition, is nothing more than the result of the most inviolable duty to a father, who never made the least attempt before to thwart the inclinations of

His ever obedient daughter

LETTER LXXX.

*Mrs. Rowe to her Mother on the approach
of her own death.*

MADAM,

I am now taking a final adieu of this world, in certain hope of meeting you in the next. I carry to my grave my affection and gratitude to you. I leave you with the sincerest concern for your own happiness, and the welfare of your family. May my prayers be answered when I am sleeping in the dust. May the angels of God conduct you in the paths of immortal pleasure.

I would collect the powers of my soul, and ask blessings for you with the holy violence of prayer. God Almighty, the God of your pious ancestors, who have been your dwelling-place for many generations, bless you. It is but a short space I have to measure; my shadows are lengthening, and my sun declining: that goodness which has hitherto conducted me, will not fail in the concluding act of life; that name which I have made my glory and my boast, shall then be my strength and my salvation.

To meet death with a becoming fortitude is a part above the powers of nature, and which I can perform by no power of holiness of my own; for, O! in my best state I am altogether vanity,—a wretched, help-

less sinner: but in the merits and perfect righteousness of God my Saviour, I hope to appear justified, at the supreme tribunal, where I must shortly stand to be judged.

[N. B. This letter was not to be sent to her mother till she was dead.]

LETTER LXXXI.

The Earl of Stafford to his Son, just before his Lordship's execution.

MY DEAREST WILL,

These are the last lines you are to receive from a father who tenderly loves you. I wish there were greater leisure to impart my mind unto you; but our merciful God will supply all things by his grace, and will guide and protect you in all your ways; to whose infinite goodness I bequeath you; and therefore be not discouraged, but serve him, and trust in him, and he will preserve and prosper you in all things. Be sure you give all respect to my wife, who hath ever had a great love unto you, and therefore it will be well becoming you. Never be wanting in your love and care to your sisters, but let them ever be most dear to you: For this will give others cause to esteem and respect you for it, and is a duty that you owe them in the memory of your excellent mother and myself. Therefore your care and affection to

them must be the very same that you are to have of yourself; and the like regard must you have to your youngest sister, for indeed you owe it to her also, both for her father's and mother's sake. Sweet Will, be careful to take the advice of those friends, who are by me, desired to advise you for your education. Serve God diligently, morning and evening, and daily commend yourself to him, and have him before your eyes in all your ways. With patience hear the instruction of those friends I leave with you, and diligently follow their counsel. For, till you come by time to have experience in the world, it will be far more safe to trust to their judgment than your own. Lose not the time of your youth, but gather those seeds of virtue and knowledge which may be of use to yourself, and comfort to your friends, for the rest of your life. And that this may be the better effected, attend thereunto with patience, and be sure to correct and restrain yourself from anger. Suffer not sorrow to cast you down; but with cheerfulness and good courage, go on the race you have to run in all sobriety and truth. Be sure, with an hallowed care, to have respect to all the commandments of God, allowing not yourself to neglect them in the least thing, lest by degrees, you come to forget them in the greatest; for the heart of man is deceitful above all things. And

in all your duties and devotions towards God, rather perform them joyfully than pensively; for God loves a cheerful giver. For your religion, let it be directed according to that which shall be taught by those who are in God's church, the proper teachers thereof, rather than that you either fancy one to yourself, or be led by men that are singular in their own opinion, and delight to go in ways of their own finding out. For you will certainly find soberness and truth in the one, and much unsteadiness and vanity in the other. The king, I trust, will deal graciously with you: restore you those honors, and that fortune which a distempered time have deprived you of, together with the life of your father; which I rather advise might be a new gift and creation from himself than by other means, to the end you may pay the thanks to him, without having obligations to any other. Be sure to avoid, as much as you can, to inquire after those who have been sharp in their judgments towards me, and charge you never suffer a thought of revenge to enter into your heart; but be careful to be informed who were my friends in this prosecution, and to them apply yourself to make them your friends also, and on such you may rely, and bestow much of your conversation amongst them. And God Almighty, of his infinite goodness, bless you and your children's children; and his same good-

ness bless your sisters in like manner : perfect you in every good work, and give you a right understanding of all things, Amen.

Your most loving father.

T. WENTWORTH.

LETTER LXXXII.

From a Father to his sick son, on Happiness.

No man that has passed the middle point of life can sit down to feast upon the pleasures of youth without finding the banquet embittered by the cup of sorrow. Many days of harmless frolic, and many nights of honest festivity will recur; he may revive the memory of many lucky accidents, or pleasing extravagances; or, if he has engaged in scenes of action, and been acquainted with affairs of difficulty and vicissitudes of fortune, he may enjoy the noble pleasure of looking back upon distress firmly supported, upon danger resolutely encountered, and upon oppression artfully defeated. Æneas very properly comforts his companions, when, after the horrors of a storm, they have landed on an unknown and desolate country, with the hope that their miseries will at some distant period, be recounted with delight. There are, perhaps, few higher gratifications than that of reflection on evils.

surmounted, when they were not incurred by our own fault, and neither reproach us with cowardice or guilt.

But this kind of felicity is always abated by the reflection, that they with whom we should be most pleased to share it, are now in the grave. A few years makes such havoc among the human race, that we soon see ourselves deprived of those with whom we entered the world. The man of enterprise, when he has recounted his adventures, is forced, at the close of the narration, to pay a sigh to the memory of those who contributed to his success; and he that has spent his life among the gayer part of mankind, has quickly his remembrance stored with the remarks and repartees of wits, whose spightliness and merriment are now lost in perpetual silence. The trader, whose industry has supplied the want of inheritance, when he sits down to enjoy his fortune, repines in solitary plenty, and laments the absence of those companions with whom he had planned out amusements for his latter years: and the scholar, whose merit, after a long series of efforts, raises him from obscurity, looks round in vain from his exalted state, for his old friends, to be witnesses of his long-sought-for affluence, and to partake of his bounty.

Such is the imperfection of all human happiness; and every period of life is obliged

to borrow its enjoyments from the time to come. In youth we have nothing past to entertain us; and in age we derive nothing from the retrospect but fruitless sorrow. The loss of our friends and companions impresses hourly upon us the necessity of our own departure. We find that all our schemes are quickly at an end, and that we must lie down in the grave with the forgotten multitude of former ages, and yield our places to others, who like us, shall be driven awhile by hope or fear about the surface of the earth, and then like us, be lost in the shade of death.

Beyond this termination of our corporeal existence, we are therefore obliged to extend our hopes, and every man indulges his imagination with something which is not to happen till he has lost the power of perceiving it. Some amuse themselves with entails and settlements, provide for the increase and perpetuation of families and honors, and contrive to obviate the dissipation of fortunes, which it has been the whole business of their lives to accumulate. Others, more refined and exalted, congratulate their own hearts upon the future extent of their reputation, the lasting fame of thier performances, the reverence of distant nations, and the gratitude of unprejudiced posterity.

It is not, therefore, from this world, that

any ray of comfort can proceed to cheer the gloom of the last hour. But futurity has still its prospects; there is yet happiness in reserve sufficient to support us under every affliction. Hope is the chief blessing of man; and that hope only is rational which we are certain cannot deceive.

I am, &c.

LETTER LXXXIII.

From the same to the same, on the Immortality of the soul.

It must be allowed, that through all the parts of nature there appears a most benevolent intention in the providence of God, for man's preservation and comfort. The earth and waters administering to his food and raiment, animals of various kinds are preserved for him in due season, as we every day experience. But these pleasures are but of a subordinate degree; he enjoys something of a far more sublime nature—his power of contemplating on the goodness of his Maker in the creation of all these things, which renders him desirous of something above and beyond them all.

Can it therefore be suggested, that beings capable of the most refined contemplations on the works of the creation; capable of being moved and affected, even to an inex-

possible degree of pleasure, by the combined harmonies of sound; beings capable of increasing and advancing their knowledge and speculation in all things, even to their last moments; capable of conceiving notions which no part of their mortal frame can possibly convey to their understanding, and in which no instrumental influence can have any share; beings that are never satisfied in searching after truth through all the winding labyrinths and hidden recesses of nature; I say can it be imagined, that such beings should be deprived of all existence, in the midst of those growing speculations, which can have no origin but what is truly divine? Its fulness must be in an hereafter. Our very imagination reaches to eternity, in spite of all that can be said by the most obstinate atheist, or that our own doubts can devise. Hope is a constant instinct which inspires men with a desire of finding some better state, and is a sure presage of futurity; nor could any man on earth be possessed of it, if that state were not certain, no more than he would shrink at committing a wicked act, if there were no power within himself that is to live hereafter. Another strong proof of the immortality of the soul flows from the infallible goodness and justice of the Divine Being for if it were not immortal, and ever conscious of good and evil done in this life

that goodness and justice would be liable to be called in question. This notion has often confounded some of the greatest philosophers, and is at the same time one of the greatest considerations to prove a future state, when entered upon with deliberation. Can we hesitate to believe the immortality of the soul, when we see the most abandoned miscreants live and prosper in affluence of fortune, carrying it with a high hand against their neighbors, distressing all in their power, enjoying and rioting on the substance of widows and orphans, and at last going to the grave unpunished; whilst the innocent and virtuous suffer a series of afflictions and miseries, by the means of these powerful tyrants, all their lives, and at length, lie down in the dust, wronged and unredressed in this life? If then there be not an hereafter for the soul, and if it be not conscious of past good and evil, where is the justice, where is the goodness, where is the mercy, where is the benevolence in giving being to mankind, for no other end but to suffer pains and misery at the hands of another; and what but partiality, (which is injustice in itself,) would have ordered sufferings like these for some, and a power of tyrannizing to others, for the short date of the life of man here, were there no punishment for the unjust and base, no happiness for the virtuous and injured, hereafter?

These considerations have induced me to believe in a future existence, which I most firmly do. I will therefore put my trust in an all merciful God, who is able to conduct me through the thorny paths of this life, to another and better world.

LETTER LXXXIV.

To a Nephew going abroad.

MY DEAR JACK,

I congratulate you upon the success of your interest, in so readily acquiring such an eligible situation abroad; I think it my duty, however, to assure you, that all the advantages of this voyage chiefly depend upon your proper behavior and regulation of conduct. Avoid dissipation and idleness, which are very destructive to health, than which nothing could be more dear to you in a strange climate.—While you seek a fortune, let justice and honor be your guides, and do not sully the laws of humanity, by taking an unworthy advantage over the forlorn. I hope to see you before your departure, in order to add something to your purse and stock, that you may remember

Your affectionate uncle.

LETTER LXXXV.

From the Nephew in answer.

MY DEAR UNCLE,

I know not how to express my grateful thanks for your advice. Believe me, I shall always endeavor to keep your bright example before my eyes, that I may never deviate from the path of rectitude. I shall do myself the extreme pleasure of seeing you to-morrow; till then I remain, dear uncle,

Your affectionate nephew.

LETTER LXXXVI

From a Tradesman to his Daughter, on her first setting out into the world.

MY DEAR GIRL,

You are now embarking on the dangerous commerce of the world at the early age of eighteen—an age the most dangerous in the life of a female. Do not, therefore, treat with indifference the advice of a parent, who has bought wisdom by experience, and who has no other view in the trouble he is now taking, but to teach you how to shun those dangers which prove the destruction of thousands.

In the first place, remember how young you are, and how easily your youthful mind may be led astray, if you be not exceedingly cautious in your conduct. For this reason, never be too confident of your own resolutions, but religiously avoid even the appearance of temptation, and always ask for that advice, which your father will always be ready to give you, with candor and tenderness, if you be not above taking it.

Attend divine service on Sundays, as often as the nature of your connexions will admit, and do not neglect the perusal of the sacred writings. By these means you will retain the character of a good Christian, and you will thereby find yourself strengthened in the love of virtue.

Be punctually honest to every trust reposed in you: for the deficiency of even but a shilling, or a shilling's worth, is as fatal to a person's character, as if the deficiency were for the largest sum. A character once tainted, is forever ruined; but this is an admonition, which I believe, I have now little need to give you.

At all times punctually speak the truth, and do not endeavor to hide a fault by the use of a lie. As I trust you have high notions of honor, let me ardently entreat you not to forfeit any part of that honor by the crime of falsehood, which belongs only to row souls. My dear

girl, cautiously avoid a lie even on the most trifling occasions, if you wish to preserve your honor untainted.

Be affable and civil to every one, however low their stations in life may be, and never look with contempt on any one merely because they may not dress so well as yourself. The day will come when the queen and the beggar will be on a level.

Among the minor virtues, cleanliness stands foremost.—It is of the greatest importance in culinary and domestic concerns. A well informed judgment in the art of cookery and confectionary being of the utmost importance in the respectable family you are about to enter, I shall therefore present you with two very excellent books on these subjects, either Glasse's whole Art of Cookery, or the New American Cookery, or Female Companion, by an American lady.

In the commerce of this world you will meet with a variety of tempers, and some of them no ways pleasing to you; but if your fortune or hopes depend upon them, do not contend with your superiors about trifles, since many a good friend has been lost by servants endeavoring to be wiser than their masters, mistresses, or superior connexions. Wise servants will always endeavor to discover the bent and inclinations of those they serve; and when they have once discovered

them, it will be no difficult matter to give satisfaction.

Carefully avoid all party connections among servants. Do what you can to make up differences, but never foment them. Do not see them injured whom you serve, without acquainting them therewith; but avoid being the bearer of little idle tittle tattle tales. Keep your own counsels, and trust no one with your bosom secrets but your father, or your real friend.

All this advice, however, will be but of little effects unless you keep yourself strictly virtuous. It is from a strict adherence to virtue that all your future hopes must flow; but, should you, in an unguarded moment, depart from the rigid rules of virtue, you will then be ruined, lost and undone forever; for your relations, friends and even acquaintances, will forsake you and shun you. But I hope that such may never be the case of my motherless girl!

A few hints may not be improper to guard you against the snares and temptations which men throw in the way of young and inexperienced girls.

Never accompany any man singly, to walk with him in the fields, to ride with him in a coach, or go to any of the public places of amusement. Girls too easily persuade themselves, that every young fellow who dangles after them, wishes to make wives of them;

but no mistake can be more fatal to their reputation and character; for there are an infinite number of those coxcombs, who endeavor to captivate the hearts of girls only that they may have an opportunity of boasting in company how great are their conquests.

When a young man of fortune expresses his love to a girl, who has no fortune but her virtue and accomplishments, great indeed should be her caution. It is certainly a great chance, if this consideration does not throw her off her guard, and induce her to consider that as love, which may be only a snare for her ruin. It is this fatal mistake which has filled our public streets with so many unhappy girls.

Real and sincere love is modest and timid, and every young woman may lay down this as a certain rule, that no man who really wishes to make a wife of them will ever attempt to take the least indecent liberties with them, nor ask for an improper favor, under promise of marriage at a more convenient time. The moment a man attempts any thing of this kind, the prudent girl will instantly fly from him and shun him as she would a plague, pestilence, and famine.

Were young women properly to consider how important and how difficult the proper choice of a husband is, we should not hear

the complaints of so many unhappy couples. But, the misfortune is, they marry first, and think it will be time enough to consider afterwards; and hence it is that so many complain all the rest of their lives, and look back with regret on that day in which they quitted service, to embark in a state of married slavery.

There is another, and a very important consideration, which ought to be constantly uppermost in your mind before you venture to take a husband. Ask yourself these plain questions; how are we to live after we shall be married? As I have no fortune myself, will my husband's income support us suitably, at least, to my present condition, and will he be able to take care of me in sickness, and enable me to bring up our children in a decent manner? Remember, that however tenderly you may love each other, if want of any kind stare you in the face, there will be no means whatever of retaining happiness in your house; and terrible indeed, is that situation, which affords no hope but in death. Such must be the situation of the generality of those who embark inconsiderately in the married state.

Thus, my dear girl, have I finished the few hints I thought it necessary to give you, on your first launching into the dangerous commerce of the world. I could have said a thousand things more to you, but I am con-

sible how irksome too long a detail of admonitions is to young minds. I know very well, that if you attend properly to these few hints, your own good sense and judgment will supply the place of every thing I have left unsaid: but if these are disregarded by you, it would be to no purpose had I given you a thousand more.

I shall conclude with admonishing you to remember how inexperienced a girl of your age must be, and how much you stand in need of the advice of a father. Let prudence be your guide, and let it be the study of your life by day, and on your pillow by night; never to deviate a step from the narrow path of virtue. Let me but live to see you confirmed by these maxims, and I shall then cheerfully resign my breath to him who gave it me, in the pleasing hope that you will live an amiable and valuable woman long after I shall be laid in my peaceful grave, and mouldering into dust.

Your affectionate father.

LETTER LXXXVII.

*From a Father to his Daughters, on Love
and Friendship.*

DEAR DAUGHTERS,

The luxury and dissipation that prevail in genteel life, as it corrupts the heart, in

many respects, so it renders it incapable of warm, sincere, and steady friendship. A happy choice of friends will be of the utmost consequence to you, as they may assist you by their advice and good offices. But the immediate gratification, which friendship affords to a warm, open, and ingenuous heart, is of itself a sufficient motive to court it. In the choice of your friends, have your principal regard to goodness of heart and fidelity. If they also possess taste and genius, that will still make them more agreeable and useful companions.—You have particular reason to place confidence in those who have shown affection for you in your early days, when you were incapable of making them any return. This is an obligation for which you cannot be too grateful. If you have the good fortune to meet with any who deserve the name of friends, unbosom yourself with the utmost confidence. It is one of the world's maxims never to trust any persons with a secret, the discovery of which could give you any pain; but it is the maxim of a little mind and a cold heart, unless where it is the effect of frequent disappointments and bad usage. An open temper, if restrained but by tolerable prudence, will make you on the whole, much happier than a reserved, suspicious one, although you may sometimes suffer by it.—Coldness and distrust are the most certain consequences of

age and experience ; but they are unpleasant feelings, and need not be anticipated before their time.

But however open you may be in talking of your own affairs, never discover the secrets of one friend to another. These are sacred deposits, which belong not to you nor have you any right to make use of them.

There is another case in which I suspect it is proper to be secret, not so much from motives of prudence as delicacy : I mean in love matters. Though a woman has no reason to be ashamed of an attachment to a man of merit, yet nature, whose authority is superior to philosophy has annexed a sense of shame to it. It is even long before a woman of delicacy dare avow to her own heart that she loves ; and when all the subterfuges of ingenuity to conceal it from herself fail, she feels violence done both to her pride and to her modesty. This, I should imagine, must be always the case where she is not sure of a return for her attachment. In such a situation, to lay the heart open to any person whatever, does not appear to me consistent with the perfection of female delicacy. But perhaps I am in the wrong. At the same time I must tell you, that in point of prudence, it concerns you to attend well to the consequences of such a discovery. These secrets, however important in your own estimation, may appear very trifling to

your friend, who possibly will not enter into your feelings, but may rather consider them as a subject of pleantry. For this reason, love secrets are of all others the worst kept. But the consequences to you may be very serious, as no man of spirit and delicacy ever valued a heart hackneyed in the ways of love. If therefore, you must have a friend to pour out your heart to, be sure of her honor and secrecy. Let her not be a married woman, especially if she lives happily with her husband. There are certain unguarded moments in which such a woman though the best and worthiest of her sex, may let hints escape, which, at other times, or to any other person than her husband, she would be incapable of; nor will her husband, in this case, feel himself under the same obligations of secrecy and honor, as if you had put your confidence originally in himself, especially on a subject which the world is apt to treat so lightly.

If all other circumstances are equal, there are obvious advantages in your making friends of your brothers and sisters. The ties of blood, and your being so much united in one common interest, form an additional bond of union to your friendship. If your brothers should have the good fortune to have hearts susceptible of friendship, to possess truth, honor, sense, and delicacy of

sentiment, they are the fittest and most unexceptionable confidants. By placing confidence in them, you will receive every advantage which you could hope for from the friendship of men, without any of the inconveniences that attend such connexions with our sex.

Beware of making confidants of your servants. Dignity, not properly understood, very readily degenerates into pride, which enters into no friendships, because it cannot bear an equal; and is so fond of flattery as to grasp at it even from servants and dependents. The most intimate confidants, therefore, of proud people, are their servants.

Never allow any person, under the pretended sanction of friendship, to be so familiar as to lose a proper respect for you. Many will tell you that this is inconsistent with the freedom which friendship allows, but a certain respect is necessary in friendship as well as in love: without it, you may be liked as a child, but will never be loved as an equal. The temper and disposition of the heart, in your sex, enter more readily into friendship than men. Your natural propensity to it is so strong that you often run into intimacies which you soon have sufficient cause to repent of; and this makes your friendships so very fluctuating.

Another great obstacle to the sincerity,

as well as steadiness of your friendship, is the great clashing of your interests in the pursuits of love, ambition, or vanity. For these reasons, it would appear at first sight more eligible for you to contract your friendships with the men. Among other obvious advantages of an easy intercourse between the sexes, it occasions an emulation and exertion in each to excel and be agreeable: Hence their respective excellences are mutually communicated and blended. As their interests in no degree interfere, there can be no foundation for jealousy or suspicion of rivalry. The friendship of a man for a woman is always blended with a tenderness, which he never feels for one of his own sex, even where love is in no degree concerned. Besides, we are conscious of a natural title you have to our protection and good offices; and therefore we feel an additional obligation of honor to serve you, and to observe an inviolable secrecy, whenever you confide in us. But apply these observations with great caution. Thousands of women, of the best hearts and finest talents, have been ruined by men, who approached them under the specious name of friendship. But, supposing a man to have the most undoubted honor, yet his friendship to a woman is so near akin to love, that if she be very agreeable in her person, she will probably very soon find a

lover where she only wishes to meet a friend. Let me here, however, warn you against that weakness so common among vain women, the imagination that every man who takes a particular notice of you is a lover. Nothing can expose you more to ridicule, than the taking up a man on the suspicion of his being your lover, who, perhaps, never once thought of you in that view; thus giving yourselves those airs so common among silly women on such occasions.

I am, &c

LETTER LXXXVIII.

From the same to the same on the foregoing subject.

DEAR DAUGHTERS,

There is a kind of unmeaning gallantry much practised by some men, which if you have any discernment, you will really find very harmless. Men of this sort will attend you to public places, and be useful to you by a number of little observances, which those of a superior class do not so well understand, or have not leisure to regard, or perhaps are too proud to submit to. Look on the compliments of such men as words of course, which they repeat to every woman of their acquaintance. There is a fa

miliarity they are apt to assume, which a proper dignity in your behavior will be easily able to check.

There is a different species of men, whom you may like as agreeable companions, men of worth, taste, and genius, whose conversation, in some respects, may be superior to what you generally meet with among those of your own sex. It will be foolish in you to deprive yourself of an useful and agreeable acquaintance because idle people say he is your lover. Such a man may like your company, without having any design upon your person. People whose sentiments, and particularly whose tastes correspond, naturally like to associate together although neither of them have the most distant view of any further connexion. But as this similarity of minds often gives rise to a more tender attachment than friendship, it will be proper to keep a watchful eye over yourselves lest your hearts become too far engaged before you are aware of it.

At the same time, I do not think that your sex, at least in this part of the world, have much of that sensibility which disposes to such attachments. What is commonly called love among you is rather gratitude, and the partiality to the man who prefers you to the rest of your sex; and such a man you often marry, with little either of personal esteem or affection. In-

deed, without any unusual share of natural sensibility, and a very peculiar good fortune, a woman in this country has very little possibility of marrying for love. It is a maxim laid down among you, and a very prudent one it is, that love is not to begin on your part, but it is entirely to be the consequence of our attachment to you. Now, supposing a woman to have sense and taste, she will not find many men to whom she can possibly be supposed to bear any considerable share of esteem. Among these few, it is a very great chance if any of them distinguishes her particularly. Love, at least with us, is exceedingly capricious, and will not always fix where reason says it should. But supposing one of them should become particularly attached to her, it is still extremely improbable that he should be the man in the world her heart most approved of.

As, therefore, nature has given you that unlimited range in your choice which we enjoy, she has wisely and benevolently assigned to you a greater flexibility of taste on this subject. Some agreeable qualities recommend a gentleman to good liking and friendship. In the course of his acquaintance he contracts attachment to you.—When you perceive it, it excites your gratitude; this gratitude rises into a preference, and this preference perhaps at last advances to some degree of attachment, especially if

It meet with crosses and difficulties, for these and a state of suspense, are very great incitements to attachment, and are the food of love in both sexes. If attachment was not excited in your sex in this manner, there is not one in a million of you that would ever marry with any degree of love. A man of taste and delicacy marries a woman because he loves her more than any other. A woman of equal taste and delicacy marries him because she esteems him, and because he gives her that preference. But if any man unfortunately becomes attached to a woman, whose heart is secretly pre-engaged, his attachment, instead of obtaining a suitable return, is particularly offensive, and if he persist to tease her, makes himself equally the object of her scorn and aversion.

The effects of love among men are diversified by their different tempers. An artful man may counterfeit every one of them so easily as to impose on a young girl of an open, generous, and feeling heart, if she is not extremely on her guard. The finest parts in such a girl may not always prove sufficient for her security. The dark and crooked paths of cunning are unsearchable and inconceivable to an honorable and elevated mind.

The following, I apprehend, are the most genuine effects of an honorable passion

among the men, and the most difficult to counterfeit. A man of delicacy often betrays his passion by his too great anxiety to conceal it, especially if he has little hopes of being fortunate.

True love, in all its stages, seeks concealment, and never expects success. It renders a man not only respectful, but timid in the highest degree, in his behavior to the woman he loves. To conceal the awe he stands in of her, he may affect pleasantry, but it sits awkwardly on him, and he quickly relapses into seriousness, if not into dullness. He magnifies all her real perfections in his imagination, and is either blind to her failings, or converts them into real beauties. Like a person conscious of guilt, he is jealous that every eye observes him; and to avoid this, he shuns all the little observances of common gallantry. His heart and his character will be improved in every respect by his attachment. His manners will become more gentle; and his conversation more agreeable; but diffidence and embarrassment will always make him appear to disadvantage in the company of his mistress. If the fascination continues long, it will totally depress his spirit, and extinguish every active, vigorous, and manly principle of his mind.

When you observe in a gentleman's behavior these marks which I have described above, reflect seriously what you are to do

If his attachmet is agreeable to you, I leave you to do as nature, good sense, and delicacy shall direct you. If you love him, let me advise you never to discover to him the full extent of your love, no, not although you marry him. That sufficiently shows your preference, which is all he is entitled to know. If he has delicacy, he will ask for no stronger proof of your affection for your sake; if he has sense, he will not ask it for his own. This is an unpleasant truth, but I thought it my duty to let you know it. Violent love cannot subsist, at least cannot be expressed long together, on both sides; otherwise the certain consequence, however concealed, is satiety and disgust.

My zeal for your welfare has excited me to throw together these few thoughts, which I flatter myself will sink deep in your memory, and be of some use to you, at the time you stand most in need of assistance.

I remain, yours, affectionately, &c.

LETTER LXXXIX.

From a Father to his Daughters, on Courtship and Coquettish Behavior.

DEAR DAUGHTERS,

In my last, I laid before you my thoughts on love and friendship, and now proceed to consider some other particulars very essen-

tial to your happiness. If you see evident proofs of a gentleman's attachment, and are determined to shut your heart against him; as you ever hope to be used with generosity by the person who shall engage your own heart, treat him honorably and humanely. Do not let him linger in miserable suspense, but be anxious to let him know your sentiments with regard to him.

However people's hearts may deceive them, there is scarcely a person that can love for any time, without at least some distant hope of success. If you really wish to undeceive a lover, you may do it in a variety of ways: There is a certain species of familiarity in your behavior, which may satisfy him, if he has any discernment left, that he has nothing to hope for. But perhaps your particular temper may not permit this. You may easily show that you want to avoid his company; but if he is a man whose friendship you wish to preserve, you may not choose this method, because then you lose him in every capacity. You may get a common friend to explain matters to him, or fall on many other devices, if you are seriously anxious to put him out of suspense.

But, if you are resolved against every such method, at least, do not shun opportunities of letting him explain himself. If you do this, you act barbarously and unjustly. If he brings you to an explanation, give him a

polite, but resolute and decisive answer. In whatever way you convey your sentiments to him, if he is a man of spirit and delicacy, he will give you no farther trouble, nor apply to your friends for their intercession. This last is a method of courtship, which every man of spirit will disdain. He never will whine or sue for your pity. That would mortify almost as much as your scorn. In short, you may break such a heart, but you can never bend it. Great pride always accompanies delicacy, however concealed under the appearance of the utmost gentleness and modesty; and is the passion of all others the most difficult to conquer.

There is a case where a woman may coquette justifiably to the utmost verge which her conscience will allow. It is where a gentleman purposely declines to make his addresses, till such time as he thinks himself perfectly sure of her consent. This at bottom, is intended to force a woman to give up the undoubted privilege of her sex, the privilege of refusing it; it is intended to force her to explain herself, in effect, before the gentleman deigns to do it, and by these means to oblige her to violate the modesty and delicacy of her sex, and to invert the clearest order of nature. All this sacrifice is proposed to be made, merely to gratify a most despicable vanity in a man, who would

degrade the very woman whom he wishes to make his wife.

It is of great importance to distinguish, whether a gentleman who has the appearance of being your lover, delays to speak explicitly, from the motives I have mentioned, or from a diffidence inseparable from the attachment. In the one case you can scarcely use him too ill; in the other, you ought to use him with great kindness: And the greatest kindness you can show him, if you are determined not to listen to his addresses, is to let him know it as soon as possible.

I know the many excuses with which women endeavor to justify themselves to the world and to their own consciences, when they act otherwise. Sometimes they plead ignorance, or at least uncertainty of the gentleman's real sentiments. That sometimes may be the case; sometimes they plead the decorum of their sex, which enjoins an equal behavior to all men, and forbids them to consider any man as a lover until he has directly told them so. Perhaps few women carry their ideas of female delicacy and decorum so far as I do. But I must say you are not entitled to plead the obligations of these virtues, in opposition to the superior ones of gratitude, justice, and humanity. The man is entitled to all these who prefers you to all the rest of your sex, and perhaps

whose greatest weakness is this preference. The truth of the matter is, vanity and love of admiration is so prevailing a passion amongst you, that you may be considered to make a very great sacrifice, whenever you give up a lover, till after the art of coquetry fails to keep him, or he forces you to an explanation. You can be fond of the love, when you are indifferent to, or even when you despise the lover. But the deepest and most artful coquetry is employed by women of superior taste and sense, to engage and fix the heart of a man, whom the world and whom they themselves esteem, although they are firmly determined never to marry him. But his conversation amuses them, and his attachment is the highest gratification to their vanity; nay, they can sometimes be gratified with the utter ruin of his fortune, fame and happiness. I am very certain I do not think so of all your sex; I know many of them have principles, have generosity and dignity of soul, that elevates them above the worthless vanity I have been speaking of.

Such a woman, I am persuaded, may always convert a lover, if she cannot give him her affections, into a warm and steady friend, provided he is a man of sense, resolution, and candor. If she explains herself to him with a generous openness and freedom, he must feel the stroke as a man; but he will

likewise bear it as a man; what he suffers he will suffer in silence. Every sentiment of esteem will remain; but love, though it requires very little food, and is easily surfeited with too much, yet it requires some. He will view her in the light of a married woman; and though passion subsides, yet a man of a candid and generous heart always retains a tenderness for a woman he has once loved, and who has used him well, beyond what he feels for any other of her sex.

If he has not confided his own secret to any body, he has an undoubted title to ask you not to divulge it. If a woman chooses to trust any of her companions with her own unfortunate attachments, she may, as it is her own affair alone; but, if she has any generosity or gratitude, she will not betray a secret which does not belong to her.

I am, &c

LETTER XC.

From the same to the same, on the foregoing subject.

DEAR DAUGHTERS,

I have insisted the more particularly on this subject of courtship, because it may most readily happen to you at that early period of life when you can have little expe-

rience or knowledge of the world, when your passions are warm, and your judgments not arrived at such full maturity as to be able to correct them. I wish you to possess such high principles of honor and generosity as will render you incapable of deceiving, and at the same time to possess that acute discernment, which may secure you against being deceived.

Male coquetry is much more inexcusable than female, as well as more pernicious; but it is rare in this country. Very few men will give themselves the trouble to gain or retain any woman's affections unless they have views in them either of an honorable or dishonorable kind. Men employed in the pursuits of business, ambition, or pleasure, will not give themselves the trouble to engage a woman's affections, merely from the vanity of conquest, and of triumphing over the heart of an innocent and defenceless girl. Besides, people never value much what is entirely in their power. A man of parts, sentiment, and address, if he lays aside all regard to truth and humanity, may engage the hearts of fifty women at the same time, and may likewise conduct his coquetry with so much art, as to put it out of the power of any of them to specify a single expression that could be said directly expressive of love. This ambiguity of behavior, this art of keeping one in suspense, is the great secret of co-

quetry in both sexes. It is the more cruel in us, because we can carry it to what length we please, and continue it as long as we please, without your being so much at liberty as to explain or expostulate: whereas we can break our chain, and force you to explain, whenever we become impatient of our situation.

A woman, in this country, may easily prevent the first impressions of love, and every motive of prudence and delicacy should make her guard her heart against them, till such time as she has received the most convincing proof of the attachment of a man of such merit as will justify a reciprocal regard. Your hearts indeed may be shut inflexibly and permanently against all the merit a man can possess. That may be your misfortune, but cannot be your fault. In such a situation, you would be equally unjust to yourself and to your lover, if you gave him your hand, when your heart revolted against him. But miserable will be your fate, if you allow an attachment to steal on you before you are sure of a return; or what is infinitely worse, where are wanting those qualities which alone can ensure happiness in the married state.

I know nothing that renders a woman more despicable than her thinking it essential to happiness to be married! Besides the gross indelicacy of the sentiment, it is a false one; as thousands of women have

experienced. But if it was true, the belief that it was so, and the consequent impatience to be married, is the most effectual way to prevent it.

You must not think from this that I do not wish you to marry. On the contrary, I am of opinion that you may attain a superior degree of happiness, in a married state, to what you perhaps may find in any other. I know the forlorn situation of an old maid, the chagrin and peevishness which are apt to infect their temper, and the great difficulty of making a transition with dignity and cheerfulness, from the period of youth, beauty, admiration, and respect, into the calm, silent, unnoticed retreat of declining years.

I see some unmarried woman, of active, vigorous minds, and of great vivacity of spirits, degrading themselves; sometimes by entering into a dissipated course of life unsuitable to their years, and exposing themselves to the ridicule of the girls, who might have been their grandchildren; sometimes by oppressing their acquaintances by impertinent intrusions into their private affairs; and sometimes by being the propagators of scandal and defamation. All this is owing to an exuberant activity of spirits, which, if it had found employment at home, would have rendered them respectable and useful members of society.

I see other women in the same situation gentle, modest, blessed with sense, taste, delicacy, and every milder feminine virtue of the heart, but of weak spirits, bashful and timid; I see such women sinking into obscurity and insignificance, and gradually losing every elegant accomplishment, for this evident reason, that they are not united to a partner who has sense, worth, and taste, to know their value; one who is able to draw forth their concealed qualities, and show them to advantage; who can give that support to their feeble spirits which they stand in so much need of; and who by his affection and tenderness, might make such a woman happy in exerting every talent, and accomplishing herself in every elegant art, that could contribute to his amusement.

In short, I am of opinion, that a married state, if entered into from proper motives of esteem and affection, will be the happiest for yourselves, make you most respectable in the eyes of the world, and the most useful members of society. But I confess I am not enough of a patriot to wish you to marry for the good of the public. I wish you to marry for no other reason but to make yourselves happier, and sincerely hope you will never relinquish the ease and independence of a single life, to become the slaves of a fool or tyrant's caprice.

As these have always been my sentiments,

I shall do you but justice, when I wish you in such independent circumstances as may lay you under no temptation to do from necessity what you will never do from choice. This will likewise save you from that cruel mortification to a woman of spirit, the suspicion that a gentleman thinks he does you an honor or a favor, when he asks you for his wife.

I am, &c.

LETTER XCI.

From a Father to his Daughters, on Marriage.

DEAR DAUGHTERS,

You may perhaps imagine, that the reserved behavior which I recommend to you, and your appearing seldom at public places, must cut off all opportunities of your being acquainted with gentlemen. I am very far from intending this; I advise you to no reserve but what will render you more respected and beloved by our sex. I do not think public places suited to make people acquainted together. They can only be distinguished there by their looks and external behavior. But it is in private companies alone where you can expect easy and agreeable conversation, which I shall never wish you to decline. If you do not allow

gentlemen to become acquainted with you, you can never expect to marry with attachment on either side. Love is very seldom produced at first sight; at least it must have, in that case, a very unjustifiable foundation. True love is founded on esteem, in a correspondence of tastes and sentiments, and steals on the heart imperceptibly.

There is one advice I shall leave you, to which I beg your particular attention. Before your affections come to be in the least engaged to any man, examine your tempers, your tastes, and your hearts very severely; and settle in your own minds what are the requisites to your happiness in a married state; and as it is almost impossible that you should get every thing to your wish, come to a steady determination what you are to consider as essential; and what may be sacrificed.

If you have hearts disposed by nature for love and friendship, and possess those feelings which enable you to enter into all the refinements and delicacies of these attachments, consider well for your own sake, and as you value your future happiness, before you give them any indulgence. If you have the misfortune (for a very great misfortune it commonly is to your sex) to have such a temper and such sentiments deeply rooted in you; if you have spirit and resolution to resist the solicitations of vanity the perse-

cution of friends, (you will have lost the only friend that would never persecute you) and can support the prospect of the many inconveniences attending the state of an old maid, which I formerly pointed out; then you may indulge yourself in that kind of sentimental reading and conversation, which is most correspondent to your feelings.

But if you find, on strict self examination, that marriage is absolutely essential to your happiness, keep the secret inviolable in your own bosoms for the reasons I formerly mentioned: but shun, as you would the most fatal poison, all that species of reading and conversation which warms the imagination, which engages and softens the heart, and raises the tastes above the level of common life. If you do otherwise consider the terrible conflicts of passion which this may afterwards raise in your breasts.

If this refinement once takes deep root in your minds, and you do not obey its dictates, but marry from vulgar and mercenary views, you may never be able to eradicate it entirely; and then it will embitter all your married days. Instead of meeting with sense, delicacy, tenderness, a lover, a friend, an equal companion, in a husband, you may be tired with insipidity and dullness; shocked with indelicacy, or mortified with indifference. You will find none to com-

passionate, or even understand your sufferance; for your husbands may not use you cruelly, and may give you as much money for your clothes, personal expenses, and domestic necessities, as is suitable to their fortunes; the world would therefore look upon you as unreasonable women, who did not deserve to be happy, if you were not so. To avoid these complicated evils, if you are determined at all events to marry, I would advise you to make all your reading and amusements of such a kind as do not affect the heart, nor the imagination, except in the way of wit or humor.

I have no view by these advices to lead your taste; I only want to persuade you of the necessity of knowing your own minds, which, though seemingly very easy, is what your sex seldom attain on many important occasions in life, but particularly on this of which I am speaking. There is not a quality I more anxiously wish you to possess, than that collected, decisive spirit which rests on itself, which enables you to see where your true happiness lies, and to pursue it with the most determined resolution. In matters of business, follow the advice of those who know them better than yourselves, and in whose integrity you can confide; but, in matters of taste, that depend upon your own feelings, consult no one

friend whatever, but consult your own hearts.

Whatever your views are in marrying, take every possible precaution to prevent their being disappointed. If fortune and the pleasures it brings are your aim, it is not sufficient that the settlement of a jointure and children's provision be amply and properly secured; it is necessary that you should enjoy the fortune during your own life. The principal security you can have for this will depend on your marrying a good-natured generous man, who despises money, and who will let you live where you can best enjoy that pleasure, that ease, and parade of life, for which you married him.

I am, &c.

ON FRIENDSHIP.

LETTER XCII.

The following letter on friendship was written by a gentleman lately deceased, and found amongst his papers

MY DEAR FRIEND,

It was a strange notion of Paschal, that he would never admit any man to a share of his friendship. Had that great man been a misanthrope, or an enemy to his fellow-creatures, I should not have been much surprised, but as his love to mankind extended as far as either his knowledge or influence, it is necessary to consider his reasons for a conduct apparently so strange. Paschal had such elevated notions of the Deity on the one hand, and so low an opinion of human nature on the other, that he thought, if he placed his affection on any created being, it would be a sort of insult to the Creator, and robbing him of that worship which was due to him alone. But whatever were the notions of that great man, yet there is such a

thing as real friendship, and there is also a necessity for it. It is true, indeed, that God is our only friend, and that on him our affections ought principally to be fixed. But those who are acquainted with human nature, well know that we are such a composition of flesh and spirit, that however we may wish to keep up an intercourse with the Deity, yet our inclinations are such, that we are more desirous of being conversant with those of our own species, to whom, at all times, we can be able to unbosom ourselves.

Friendship is as old as the first formation of society, and there is scarce one ancient writer now extant, who has not said something in praise of it. Of this we have a fine example in the story of David and Jonathan, as recorded in the second book of Samuel. In the same sacred oracles we are told that love is stronger than death, and even the great Redeemer of the world had a beloved disciple.

The pious and ingenious Dr. Watts has finely described friendship in one of his poems, which I doubt not but you have read.

Friendship, thou charmer of the mind,
Thou sweet deluding ill;
The brightest moments mortals find,
And sharpest pains we feel.

Fate has divided all our shares,
Of pleasure and of pain ;
In love the friendship and the cares,
Are mix'd and join'd again.

The same ingenious author, in another place
says,

'Tis dangerous to let loose our love
Beneath the eternal fair.

But whatever the wise or learned may say, yet we know that man is a social being, and consequently has a capacity, and even a desire for friendship. Friendship is in its own nature so necessary, that I know not how a social being can exist without it. Are we by any providential occurrence raised from poverty to affluence, to whom can we communicate the delightful news but our friend ? on the other hand, we are reduced from the highest pinnacle of grandeur to the most abject state of poverty, to whom can we look with consolation but God and our friend ; indeed there is not one state or condition in life, where friendship is not necessary. What wretched mortals would men be were they not endowed with so noble a principle !

Friendship is of a very delicate nature, and either the happiness or misery of both parties may, in some sense, be said to depend

on it. Friendship is somewhat like marriage, it is made for life, or as Cæsar said, 'The die is cast.' Mrs. Rowe, in one of her letters to the Countess of Hertford, says, 'When I contract a friendship it is for eternity:' her notions were always elevated, and the chief business of her life seems to have been promoting the interest of her fellow-creatures. Friendship obliges the parties engaged to lay open their minds to each other; there must not be any concealment. There is not an endearing attribute of the Deity, not an amiable quality in man, but what is included in the word friendship. Benevolence, mercy, compassion, &c. are only parts of it.

From all this we may learn, that great care ought to be had in the choice of friends; and should they unhappily betray the sacred trust reposed in them, yet we ought not to pursue them with unrelenting fury.

In the course of my experience I remember two instances of the breach of friendship, which were attended with very different effects. Two gentlemen contracted a friendship for each other, which lasted some years; at last one of them unhappily revealed a secret to his wife, who told it to the wife of the other, in consequence of which an unhappy division took place in the family of the latter. The injured person upbraided his friend with infidelity, told him

of the fatal effects occasioned by this impudence; but (says he) although I cannot be your friend any longer, yet I will never be your enemy. My heart will pity you, whilst my hand shall be open to relieve your necessities. Such a declaration was consistent with the prudence of a man, and the piety of a Christian: but that of the other was of a nature totally opposite, and in my opinion truly diabolical. A difference of a similar nature happened, attended with the like circumstances: but the injured person instead of sympathizing with the weakness of his friend, pursued him with unrelenting cruelty, nor ever ceased till he had accomplished his ruin, and even triumphed over it. You may make what comments you please; I can only assure you that both are facts. How different, my friend, has our conduct to each other been; during these thirty years, no breach has ever happened; and it seems as new this day as at the beginning. As this is probably the last letter you will ever see in my hand writing, accept of my sincere thanks for the many benefits I have received from your faithful admonitions, and your benevolent consolations, and when we meet in the regions of bliss, our happiness will then remain uninterrupted.

I am yours, sincerely

LETTER XCIII.

To a Friend urging attention to Religion.

DEAR L.

We have enjoyed many pleasant hours together in the intercourse of friends, and I trust that our companionship has not been altogether unprofitable to ourselves. Yet while enjoying the pleasant seasons and pleasant things we have had together, I have felt that our hearts, and our conversation have been too little turned to the great Author and Giver of all our blessings. Upon me especially has been blame in this, professing as I do the name of Christ, and hoping for eternal happiness through him, I have not, my dear friend, sought, as much as I ought, to lead your attention to the subject of your own personal salvation. If I could do any thing to bring you a fortune, or any great earthly good, you know that I would be willing to labor earnestly for it; how much more, ought I to be willing to labor earnestly for your soul, if by so doing I can hope to do you good in a matter infinitely more important than any earthly matter can be

Allow me then to urge upon you, kindly, but with all the earnestness of which I am capable, that you attend to the subject of religion. You believe that without a change

of heart you must be forever miserable after death, and that you are liable at any moment to die thus; now is it wise, is it acting as reasonably and rationally as we act in other things, when under such circumstances we live on, day after day and month after month without any serious effort to become reconciled to God in the way he has provided for us. It seems to me that the great reason that prevents many from attending to this subject is, that they will not *think* about it at all. When we are enjoying the good things God has given us, and the thousand little matters that go to make the happiness of this life are all without a drawback, is it not strange that our hearts should not be turned in love to Him who has provided all these things for us, and continues them to us, even when we have perhaps been long abusing them by doing what we know is wrong, and what He has forbidden. It is strange that we do thus; we can hardly feel that the worst of men could thus live towards another who had been constantly conferring favors while those favors had been as constantly received with neglect and ingratitude.

Are you willing, dear L. to think of this subject, and to determine that you will make an effort, and a mighty effort, to become reconciled to God, through Jesus Christ. Let me urge you to do this faithfully and perse

veringly, and I beg you to read carefully the accompanying volume, Baxter's Call to the Unconverted; especially the directions at the close of the book. You are familiar with the Bible, and you remember the promise, Seek and ye shall find. Now if you believe the word of God, you cannot but be assured that if you seek earnestly and perseveringly for reconciliation to God, you will find it.

There is one objection often felt to attempting a religious life, which I wish to notice; it is, that in becoming religious we must give up those things which we love to do, and do constantly those things which we dislike. Those who offer or feel this objection forget that the yielding up ourselves to God is a change of heart, and that we should no longer desire to do those things which we before desired. Would you not rejoice to have a desire to do only right.

Will you write me upon this subject; I hope to learn from you that you will give earnest attention to the subject. Believe me, that I shall sincerely pray for you.

Yours in friendship.

LETTER XCIV.

To a Friend on his recovery from a dangerous Illness.

DEAR SIR,

Give me leave to mingle my joy with that of all your friends and relations, in the recovery of your health, and to join with them to bless God for continuing to your numerous well wishers, the benefit of your useful and valuable life. That he may long preserve you in health, and prosper all your undertakings, for the good of your worthy family, and the pleasure of all your friends and acquaintance, is the hearty prayer of, sir,

Your faithful friend and humble servant

LETTER XCV.

An Answer to the Preceding.

DEAR SIR,

I give you many thanks for your kind congratulations. My return of health will be the greater pleasure to me, if I can contribute in any measure to the happiness of my good friends, and particularly to that of you and yours; for I assure you, sir, that nobody can be, more than I am,

Your obliged humble servant.

LETTER XCVI.

From a Young Gentleman to his afflicted Friend.

I cannot fail, my dear Harry, most sensibly to feel the loss you have sustained in the death of a good and indulgent father. It pierces me to the heart: for I know how great was your affection for him, and how feelingly you must bemoan his loss. I will call upon you to-morrow, and we will cry together; for, as we always mutually enjoyed our sports, why should we be separated in our griefs. They tell me you do not cry, but sit in gloomy silence. I do not like that; for I have somewhere read, that tears ease the heart, and open a passage for the anguish of the soul. That Heaven may give you patience under this terrible calamity, is the most fervent prayer of

Your disconsolate friend.

LETTER XCVII.

Answer to the preceding.

I know of nothing in this world but a letter from my dear Billy, that could have so soon awakened me from the deep and melancholy gloom with which I was over-

whelmed. Your letter forced from my eyes a flood of tears, and since that, my heart is much easier. Am I not wicked in thus repining at my hard fate, when it is undoubtedly the work, the pleasure of that great Being, to whose will, my dear father has often told me, we ought at all times to submit? Others, perhaps better children than myself, have experienced the like loss, and more must submit to the same dreadful misfortune. My poor mamma is almost distracted, and my grief I perceive adds to hers. I will therefore, endeavor to conceal it. Let me see you to-day or to-morrow at farthest, which is all I can say at present, but—what a father have I lost!

LETTER XCVIII.

To a friend on a Breach of Promise

SIR,

You may remember when I lent you the sum of \$50, that you positively assured me you would repay me in three months—on that account I ventured to let you have the money, which I intended for my landlord; it has now been some weeks since the expiration of the time, and I have neither seen nor heard from you. As I have been guilty myself of a breach of promise, owing

to yours, you will exceedingly oblige me,
by settling it as soon as possible.

I am, sir,

Your very humble servant.

LETTER XCIX.

The Answer.

SIR,

I am exceedingly sorry that your good nature should suffer by my misfortune; I had every reason to think I should be able to fulfil my promise, but I am now determined to surrender all that I am worth, and as far as my stock will permit, give every creditor satisfaction.

I am, sir,

Your distressed friend, &c.

LETTER C.

From a son-in-law in New York, to his father-in-law in Boston.

DEAR SIR,

I received your last, dated the 15th instant, with much pleasure, as some time has elapsed since the receipt of your preceding epistle. We rejoice to hear that you and the family are well; nothing can be more gratifying, being at such a distance from you,—patience, and we may shortly meet.

I confess, the bare idea of such a happiness yields me inexpressible content.

My dear Susan and I jog on as usual ; I smoke, she reads,—I read, she works ; now and then we have two or three agreeable visitors, chiefly divines ; we promenade, in short, we amuse ourselves very sociably ; yesterday I took her over ———, a long journey for her ; but the prospect repays the labor of climbing such an eminence, which is a difficult, a steep ascent ; “the steps are peril, toil, and care.”

Our best compliments to all friends, and thank Mr. Cotton and Mr. Elton for their kind remembrances, and believe me to be,

Dear sir,
Your affectionate son

LETTER CI.

Colonel Stedman to his son.

MY DEAR JOHN,

As the last good I can do for you in this world, I now join to the trifles I leave you, these few lines, and which I beg of you often to read for his sake, who ever loved you so tenderly. Above all things, fear God as the Supreme Author of all good ; love him in your soul, and be religious ; but detest every tincture of hypocrisy.

Regard your neighbor, that is, all man-

kind, and of whatever nation, profession, or faith, while they are honest—and be ever so thyself; it is the best policy in the end, depend upon it.

Guard against idleness; it is the root of every misery, to which bad company gives the finishing stroke.

Love economy without avarice, and be ever thyself thy best friend.

Fly from the excesses of debauchery; they will rot thy body, and be a canker in thy mind. To keep both sound, my dear, be never behindhand with thy correspondent, with thy creditor, with thy daily occupations, or with thy conscience, and thy soul shall enjoy peace.

By using air, exercise, diet, and recreation, thy body shall possess health and vigor.

Dear John, should fortune frown, which, depend on it, she sometimes will, then look around on thousands more wretched than thyself, and who, perhaps, did less deserve to be so, and be content. Content is better than fine gold.

Wish not for death, it is sin; but scorn to fear it, and be prepared to meet it every hour, since come it must, while the good mind smiles at its sting, and defies its point. Beware of passion and cruelty; but rejoice in being good natured, not only to man, but to the meanest insect; that is, to the whole creation without exception; detest hurting

them but for thy food or thy defence. To be cruel is the portion of the coward, while bravery and humanity go hand in hand, and please God. Obey with temper, and even pleasure, those set over thee ; since without knowing how to be obedient none know how to command.

Now, my dear boy, love Mrs. Stedman and her little children from the heart, if ever you had a real love for your dear father, who requests it of you. She has most tenderly proved a help to thy infant state ; and while thou art a brother to her helpless little ones, prove thyself, also, a parent and a guardian, by a constant kindness, and a proper conduct. Let that good sense with which heaven has been pleased to befriend thee, promote peace and harmony in thy dear family ; then shall the blessing of Almighty God overspread you and them, and we, together with your beloved mother, my dear Johanna, have a chance once more to meet, where, in the presence of our heavenly Benefactor, our joy and happiness shall be eternal and complete ; which is the ardent wish, the sincere prayer, the only hope of your once loving father, thy tender parent, who, my dear child, when you read this, shall be no more, and rests with an affectionate heart to all eternity.

Yours affectionately.

P. S Let not your grief for my decease

overcome you ; let your tears flow, my dear, with manly moderation, and trust that I am happy.

LETTER CII.

From a gentleman to his son, whose conduct displeased him.

WILLIAM,

I am truly grieved to find that all my remonstrances have been thrown away upon you, and that the advice I have given to you, which originated solely from the tender affection I bear toward you, continues to be treated with contempt. It therefore becomes my solemn, though melancholy duty, to act with determination. I am resolved to do so, and no entreaties shall prevent me from resorting to every mode of punishment remaining in my power, unless you make an immediate reformation in your conduct.

In pursuance of this plan, I have given my bankers a positive order never to advance you a single shilling on my account ; and when your money is gone, young man, you will also then discover your real friends, though I greatly fear you have not one in the universe, with the exception of your injured and insulted father, who is even yet anxious to save you from utter destruction

I have only to add, that should you still continue to persist in your present debauched line of conduct, I will forever close my doors against you, and never exchange either a letter or a syllable with you whilst I live.

Think, young man, I most earnestly conjure you, upon what I have said, before it is too late, and fly to the arms of your afflicted father, while they are yet extended to receive you.

I remain,

Your well wisher.

LETTER CIII.

Answer.

SIR,

For I dare not address you by the tender appellation of father; my cheeks burn with shame and sorrow whilst I am writing to you. Your justly merited and truly severe letter, though blended with parental mercy, has at length opened my eyes to a proper view of the enormity of my conduct, and the amazing ingratitude I have exhibited towards you, one of the best of parents. Indeed, sir, I can hardly believe that your tender affection for your unworthy son, can ever induce you cordially to pardon so depraved a creature as I am.

Believe me, sir, I am sensible of my past folly, of my unkind treatment of yourself, and of your undeserved affection. Pardon me what I have done, and be assured that, from this moment, I will forever quit those evil, debauched paths, in which I too long unfortunately strayed; and by the constant propriety of my future behavior, endeavor to deserve your proffered clemency, and to regain that portion of your love which I certainly deserve to lose forever.

You tell me, sir, that your arms are still open to receive me; I shall fly to them with the hope, that when your guilty though penitent son, is folded to your heart, you will then seal his pardon for the past, and again permit him to call you his beloved father.

Your unhappy though repentant son.

LETTER CIV.

From a Gentleman in New-York to his friend in the country.

DEAR SIR,

I am extremely fearful that you consider me neglectful of your very handsome letter and kind present. In that letter you state that "a servant will call for a reply," — a reply has remained on my desk ever since.

I presume you are by this time about to return to town, and ready to enter upon the vocations of the winter, I trust with health and spirits. Mrs. Plane, too, I hope, participates with you in both.

Allow me to repeat my grateful thanks for your kind attention, and be assured that it will afford me much pleasure in being honored with your friendship.

My family are still out of town, and I believe will be so till next month; after that period, when we get a little settled, I hope to have the pleasure of seeing you and Mrs. Plane.

And believe me to be, dear sir,
Yours, very sincerely

LETTER CV.

*From an elderly gentleman to his friend,
as a testimonial.*

DEAR GEORGE,

I am sorry to hear the Albion had sailed before you arrived at Plymouth, and consequently, that you were disappointed of a situation on board that ship. I trust, however, it will not be long before something else equally desirable, will be procured for you. The education you have received qualifies you to make yourself useful in most situations, and I am inclined to think your

not going to Cambridge may prove an advantage to you.

The expenses of an University education have now become so very great, and there is so little chance of obtaining preferment without powerful interest, that I think your friends have done very wisely in sending you out into the world, and letting you seek your fortune by your own exertions.

Should it please God to preserve your life, your success will, under the Divine Providence, in a great measure, depend upon your own good conduct; and you may, if you behave in the manner I flatter myself you will, look forward to the time when it will be in your power to act as a father to your little brothers and sisters, and to return to your parents those numberless obligations they have conferred upon you; nothing, I am sure, would give you greater satisfaction.

Should any opportunity occur in which I can be of service to you, I shall embrace it with pleasure.

Wishing you every success,

I am, your sincere friend.

LETTER CVI.

From a gentleman to his friend, declining an invitation.

MY DEAR SIR,

Indispensable business will take me from home for four or five days, consequently I am obliged most reluctantly to decline your polite invitation for Saturday next.

Mrs. Johnstone unites with me in affectionate regard to your wife. In great haste, but with great truth, I have the pleasure to subscribe myself,

Your sincere friend.

LETTER CVII.

From a person wishing to obtain a situation in a public office.

SIR,

It is with great reluctance, I assure you, that I take the liberty of addressing you without the necessary letter of introduction generally expected on such an occasion; but permit me to state, that a few weeks since I received a letter from Mr. Foster, of Boston, which I trust will supply that deficiency.

My circumstances, sir, have been for some years very precarious, and I find my

health impaired by protracted anxiety, and frequent difficulties; and my present situation being truly trying, I have presumed to solicit your kind condescension, to grant me a letter to one of the gentlemen, directors of —, for some situation in their service; should the emolument be ever so trifling, provided the situation be permanent, it would be of the utmost service, and afford me that peace of mind I so ardently crave.

My education has been liberal, and I can procure most respectable testimonials as to character.

Entreating your favorable consideration of my letter,

I remain, sir,

With respect, yours.

LETTER CVIII.

From a gentleman abroad, to his wife in America.

MY BELOVED JANE;

Ever anxious to correspond with you, I most pleasurably embrace an opportunity which now presents itself of sending you a letter.

Every thing goes on with me as agreeably and as prosperous as I can reasonably expect; the only trouble I have is that of

being absent from you, whose charming society and tender endearments, neither time nor possession can render me willing to relinquish even for one moment. No, my dear wife, believe me, each year which has elapsed since the solemn rites of religion consecrated us to each other, has only contributed to render me still more sensible of the treasure I then gained, and of my own exquisite happiness in having such a friend and such a wife, for whom nothing can ever diminish my love.

A few months, I trust, will restore me to your dear arms, never again to be torn from them, having nearly completed the arrangements necessary to be made respecting my property in this distant part of the world. Be assured, the fond idea of again seeing you, urges me to use all possible expedition in the transaction of business.

Be careful, my beloved, of your health; remember that your Henry's life and happiness depend on yours, with which it is too closely connected to admit of any separation. Render my kindest remembrance to all our mutual friends, and preserve the image of him who adores you, in your heart.

I am, my dear Jane,
Your affectionate and faithful husband.

LETTER CIX.

*Answer.***MY DEAR HENRY,**

To receive a letter from you, ever conveyed the purest feeling of unaffected happiness to my bosom, even when only separated for a single day; you may, therefore, easily imagine how gratified I was to hear from you, when, for the first time since our happy union, we are so widely apart. Believe me, my Henry, that during the period of your absence, I cannot partake of any real enjoyment, because all I do is alloyed by the knowledge that my heart's beloved cannot enjoy it with me.

My whole employment now is to look forward to that happy hour when we shall be re-united, in doing which I draw the most delightful scenes of future bliss.

Indeed, my affectionate, my dear husband, I can never sufficiently express, even by the utmost tenderness, the high and grateful sense I entertain of your unwearied kindness and constant love to me. Were I to live an age, and each moment of my life devoted to your service, it would not suffice. I sincerely hope that your business will soon permit you to return to the affectionate arms of your anxious wife; for I feel perfectly assured, that nothing but the most

urgent business will possess the power of detaining you one moment from the society of her who lives but in the enjoyment of your smiles.

The kind caution you gave me of being careful of my health, I must retort upon you. For, my beloved Henry, were I to lose you, death, by taking me, would prevent you from reposing in a solitary grave. No, my dearest husband, it would not be possible for me to survive your loss. With millions of kisses, and as many affectionate blessings,

I am, my dear husband,
Your own devoted wife

LETTER CX.

*From a young man to a friend, to borrow
Money.*

DEAR WILL,

What a pity it is that language should be so much abused, that common sober prose is very little regarded; but that what is really *meant* requires to be printed in italics or in poetry. The every day intercourse of life passes along like an unbroken, unvarying page of prose, with no spot to stand out as it were a relief to life's school boy monotony. How many people there are, dear Will, who go through life in this way,

making it like a big book upon some abstruse subject, carrying one from title page to finis without a page of poetry or a passage of italics in the whole of it.

It is not so with us you know; we have read many a page of life's poetry together, under clear skies and bright sunshine; and we can recall many a passage of life, more or less brief, that is imprinted on our memories in *italics*.

Now, Will, I like this; these spots are as if, when we were at school, after wandering through page after page of metaphysics, till the free wrought sympathies that link heart to heart had become as weak and powerless as good resolutions are in the days of our teens,—as if then we had come at once and by surprise to a page of Wordsworth or Campbell or Gray, mixed with the metaphysics. *Wouldn't* it have given a new impulse to the blood in our veins. The fact is, we allow the prose of life to occupy perhaps too much of it, and to bring up the finer feelings of the heart; it is only when misfortunes comes, and when we are called to sympathize and relieve the trials of our good friends, that the poetry of the heart so long pent up gushes forth, and that another passage is printed in italics.

Now, dear Will, I have known cases where good feelings had become so choked up in the heart that there seemed nothing

of it left. I do not believe this is so with you; I doubt not the poetry of your heart would gush out at the first touch.

Shall I prove it? how easy to do it; I want *thirty dollars*: send it, Will, and if you have any scruples, remember the days of old, and believe I will pay it to you in a week.

Yours truly.

P. S.—Remember that what is meant has to be put in *italics*.

LETTER CXI.

The Answer.

DEAR JIM,

The fact is, that the poetry of life and the *italics* of the heart are entirely too ethereal in their natures to be associated with the dross of dollars and cents. I go you the poetry and the *italics*, to the full extent; but I cannot consent to alloy the fine drawn sympathies and feelings of friendship by bringing it in contact with so common-place a matter as money.

Nor can I, dear Jim, when I remember the days of old, believe it would be paid to me in a week.

Yours truly

LETTER CXII.

*From a Gentleman to his Friend, being an
Apology for having disappointed him.*

August 3d, 18—.

Sir—I have sincerely to apologize to you for not returning according to my promise, but having met with a gentleman who has just returned from Italy, I was induced to make some inquiries concerning his route and adventures, when, to my surprise, I found that he had been intimately acquainted with my son, who, you are aware, has been, for some time, studying painting in that fertile region of the arts.

Allured by his conversation, and particularly with his relation of several agreeable adventures he had had, in company with my son, the hours glided away so imperceptibly, that it was midnight before I had the least recollection of my engagement with you. Begging that you and Mrs. Cleveland will accept my cordial assurances of esteem and respect,

I am, dear sir,

Yours, with the greatest respect.

LETTER CXIII.

Congratulating a friend on her marriage.

BY JANE TAYLOR.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

In compliance with your kind wish, as well as to gratify my own inclinations, I take up the pen to address a line to you. Circumstances which I need not explain, have obliged me to defer writing till it is nearly time to dispatch my letter; so that I am under the necessity of sending you an epistle very inadequate to the occasion. At a future time I shall hope to converse with you at leisure; now I must offer you my congratulations with nearly as much brevity as you conveyed your kind adieu; though not with less sincerity and affection.

In this sorrowful world the tones of joy and congratulation are so seldom heard, that one is almost startled by the sound; but they acquire additional sweetness from the contrast:—it is truly refreshing to me to turn from various causes of pain and anxiety, to think of my dear L. and contemplate her fair prospects. For though I have lived too long in this changing world to imagine they will never be clouded; yet there is surely every reason to hope that with the right views and moderated expectations with which you enter your new career, as

large a portion of temporal happiness will enliven it as can be desired by those who are looking forward toward a better inheritance. May the blessing of heaven rest upon you, my dear friend, in your new connexion!—it is my sincere and earnest prayer for you.

Every day I live convinces me more and more, of the folly and uselessness of forming any defined wishes for earthly happiness either for myself or others that are dear to me; nothing will do but resigning all to the disposal of Him who not only knows, but does what is best for us. To Him I know you have committed all the events of your future life; and in this cheerful dependence you must be safe and happy.

LETTER CXIV.

From a young merchant to an aged gentleman formerly of the same profession, but now retired from business.

HONORED SIR,

Your generosity in sending me instructions during my apprenticeship, will ever remain a lasting proof of that innate goodness, for which you have long been justly celebrated, and likewise encourages me to trouble you for advice how to conduct myself, so as to support my credit in the world, now

I am entered upon business. Your long and extensive knowledge of mercantile affairs, gives a sanction to every thing you say, and your goodness of heart encourages the unexperienced to address themselves to you with cheerfulness. I have been now about two years in business, and although my success has been equal to my expectations, yet there are such a variety of failures daily in this city that I am every day thinking my own name may be that week in the gazette. I should not be much surprised, were all to become bankrupts who are of abandoned characters, as I do not see how any thing less can be expected. You know, sir, that assiduity and regularity are qualifications indispensably necessary to the merchant, so that it must appear morally impossible for the man to prosper in trade, whose time is spent in dissipation and idleness, if not (which too often happens) in debauchery. When I hear of such failing in their payments, I am no ways surprised; but when great numbers apparently in affluent circumstances, and the fairest characters daily fail, I am justly alarmed; and my fears continue to increase in proportion to their numbers.

I would not choose to judge rashly, much less uncharitably of any man; although I must confess I am very much shocked when I hear that a commission of bankruptcy is awarded

against one supposed worth thousands, and not sufficient left to pay five shillings in the pound. I am filled with horror on account of my own situation, and led to believe, that there is a latent curse attending mercantile affairs, which the greatest prudence can neither foresee nor prevent. I am sensible that the person to whom I am writing, knows the above to be true. Your long acquaintance with the fluctuating state of merchandize, procures respect, and gives a sanction to every thing you say; but as far as I am able to learn, those failings in the mercantile world, are more frequent now, than when you was engaged in trade. I am not ambitious of acquiring riches, my whole desire is to obtain a peaceable possession of the comforts of life, to do justice to every one with whom I have any dealings, and to live and die an honest man. Such, sir, is the plan I have laid down for my future conduct in life; but alas it will require the assistance of all my friends, to enable me to execute my design with a becoming propriety. Let me therefore beg your advice on an affair of so much importance; and whatever you dictate, shall be the invariable rule of my conduct, whilst the thanks of a grateful heart shall be continually returned for so benevolent an action

I am, sir, &c.

LETTER CXV.

The Answer.

Sir,

If I can form any judgement of the integrity of your actions, and the purity of your intentions, from the contents of the letter now before me, I should not hesitate one moment in declaring that it is almost impossible that your name will ever appear in the gazette, under the disagreeable circumstances you have mentioned; for how is it possible to suppose that the man who keeps a regular account of his proceedings, his loss and gain, should not know whether his circumstances are affluent or distressed, and whatever you may think of those merchants who have often failed, although reputed affluent, yet if you had attended to their examination before the commissioners, I believe you would have great reason to alter your opinion. I speak concerning bankruptcies in general, for there are some unforeseen accidents, which even the greatest prudence cannot prevent. But these are extraordinary cases, and seldom happen. If you examine minutely into the nature of those causes which generally occasion bankruptcies, you will find them arising from something with which you are still unacquainted. I shall endeavor to point out a few, and sub

mit to your own judgment whether I am mistaken or not. And the first, is generally a careless attention to business, the not keeping regular accounts, and a more earnest desire after public entertainments, than assiduity to business on the 'change. Mercantile affairs require a clear and solid judgment, and it is morally impossible for that man to prosper in trade whose mind is continually engaged in the pursuit of things foreign to, and wholly unconnected with that station in which Providence has placed him. It is a contradiction in terms. Assiduity always procures the many failures in the mercantile world, is the vanity of those in trade living above their circumstances. This vice is at present so predominant among the citizens, and its consequence so fatal, that one would almost imagine the people were laboring under some penal infatuation. Formerly the citizens of London were distinguished in a peculiar manner for their gravity; the 'change and the custom-house were the only places frequented when they went from home. But now the face of affairs is changed, and those places where their predecessors gained fortunes, are considered too low and vulgar for them to be seen at. Nay, so far have they carried their extravagance, that all distinctions are in a manner confounded, and the wife of a tradesman is hardly known from the lady of a peer

Dissipation, extravagance and debauchery, have taken the place of activity, prudence and frugality: that instead of acquiring independent fortunes, and retiring from business with credit and honor in their advanced years, we first see their names in the gazette, and the remainder of their lives is either spent in a prison, or they are left to struggle through the world without credit under the odious appellation of a bankrupt. The last cause I would mention is naturally the effect of the others; it is a desperate attempt to repair a broken fortune by engaging too deeply at gaming in the Alley.

This practice has been attended with such pernicious consequences, that the children unborn will become real sufferers through the madness of their infatuated parents. When those who have wasted their substance in riotous living, are awakened by a feeling sense, of their approaching shame and misery, they generally muster up all they can procure, and at one stroke venture it all in the Alley, where if one is successful, most commonly twenty are ruined. What I have now told you is the result of long experience and I doubt not but you will find too glaring proofs of it. It now remains that I should in compliance with your request, point out some rules to be observed, in order to carry on business, both with credit, honor and profit. But I know of no

method more proper than to act diametrically opposite to the conduct of those already mentioned.

Learn to be wise by other's harm,
And you shall do full well.

Never leave that undone till to-morrow
that can be performed to-day.

Never trust that to either a friend or a
servant which can be done by yourself.

Keep an account of every day's expense,
and once at least every week compare your
debt with your credit.

Be not over anxious in acquiring riches.
Trade is solid, but slow; and experience
has long since convinced me, that those who
are over hasty in acquiring riches, most com-
monly fail in their attempts, and soon dis-
cover themselves real beggars. But above
all, remember, that 'in vain do we rise soon
or sit up late, unless our labors are crowned
with divine blessings.' I leave these things
to your consideration, and am, your well
wisher, &c.

FEMALE INGENUITY.

A young lady, newly married, being obliged to show to her husband all the letters she wrote, sent the following to an intimate friend.

"I cannot be satisfied, my dearest friend, blest as I am in the matrimonial state, unless I pour into your friendly bosom, which has ever been in unison with mine, the various sensations which swell with the liveliest emotions of pleasure, my almost bursting heart. I tell you my dear husband is the most amiable of men. I have now been married seven weeks, and have never found the least reason to repent the day that joined us. My husband is in person and manners far from resembling ugly, cross, old, disagreeable, and jealous monsters, who think by confining to secure; a wife, it is his maxim to treat, as a bosom friend and confidant, and not as a plaything or menial slave, the woman chosen to be his companion. Neither party,

he says, should always obey implicitly; but each yield to the other by turns. An ancient maiden aunt, near seventy, a cheerful, venerable, and pleasant old lady, lives in the house with us—she is the delight of both young and old; she is civil to all the neighborhood around, generous and charitable to the poor. I believe my husband loves nothing more than he does me; he flatters me more than the glass, and his intoxication (for so I must call the excesses of his love,) often makes me blush for the unworthiness of its object, and wish to be more deserving of the man whose name I bear. To say all in one word, my dear ———, and to crown the whole, my former gallant lover is now my indulgent husband, my fondness is returned, and I might have had a Prince, without the felicity I find in him. Adieu; may you be as blest as I am unable to wish that I could be more happy.

Key—The Key to the above Letter is to read the first and then every alternate line only.

CARDS OF COMPLIMENT.

Mrs. MARY VERNON presents her compliments to Miss Aldridge, and requests the honor of her company to a tea-party, on Wednesday evening.

13 Portland-street.

Tuesday noon.

Miss Aldridge presents her respects to Mrs. Mary Vernon, and accepts her kind invitation with pleasure.

9 Westminster-street.

Tuesday-noon.

Miss Aldridge presents her respects to Mrs. Mary Vernon, and regrets that a pre-engagement prevents her acceptance of her polite invitation.

Miss Dudley's regards to Mrs. Windsor, and will be obliged by her company to dinner on Tuesday next, at three o'clock.

Mrs. Windsor's compliments to Miss Dudley, and is sorry that a pre-engagement for Tuesday next, compels her to decline her very polite invitation

Mrs. Windaor presents her respectful compliments to Miss Dudley, and will do herself the honor of waiting upon her at the appointed time.

The Rev. Mr. Hoggart presents his respects to Mr. Fletcher, and shall feel greatly obliged if Mr. F. will take his duty at St. James' on Sunday next, business of importance calling Mr. H. from town.

The Rev. Mr. Fletcher's compliments to Mr. Hoggart, and feels happy in having the power to oblige him on Sunday next.

The Rev. Mr. Fletcher is extremely sorry it is not in his power to oblige Mr. Hoggart, being obliged to officiate at St. Brides' on Sunday morning next.

Mr. Wilson presents his compliments to Mrs. Johnson, and begs she will accept the basket of fruit sent herewith.

Mrs. Johnson returns her best respects to Mr. Wilson, and is greatly indebted to him for his obliging present.

Mr. and Mrs. C. present their respects to Mr. and Mrs. D. and shall expect the pleasure of their company to meet a dinner party at 2 o'clock on Wednesday afternoon next.

Mr. and Mrs. D. are truly obliged by the polite invitation given them by Mr. and Mrs. C. and will do themselves the honor of attending upon them at the appointed time.

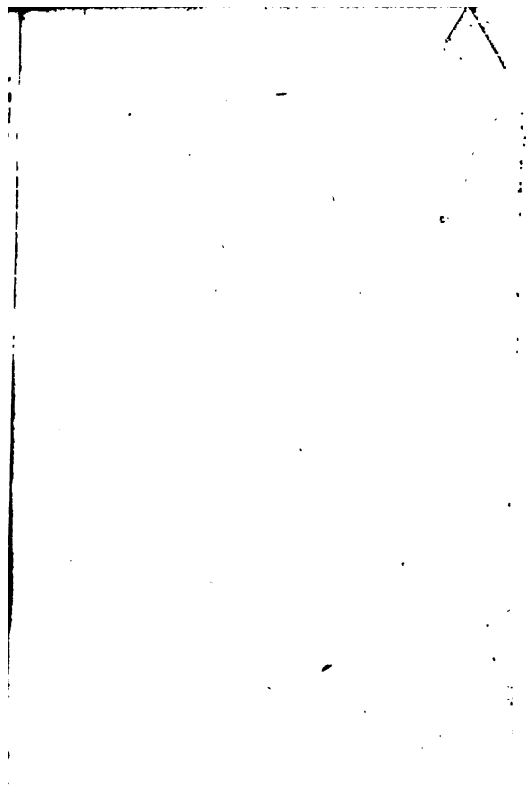
Mr. and Mrs. D. present their respectful compliments to Mr. and Mrs. C. and are exceedingly sorry that the severe indisposition of Mr. D. will deprive them of the pleasure of accepting their friendly invitation.

Mr. B. will be greatly obliged, if Mr. H. will favor him with a call this evening, at eight o'clock, having some business of particular importance to communicate. The favor of an answer is requested.

Mr. H. has to acknowledge the honor of Mr. B's note, and will have the pleasure of waiting upon him at the appointed time.

Mr. H. is truly sorry that he is unavoidably prevented from waiting upon Mr. B. at the hour of eight this evening, but will, if agreeable, do himself that honor to-morrow morning, at eleven o'clock.

[Complimentary Cards must always have the address, &c. at the bottom, similar to the two first.]



Chapman & Co. Barboursville

Mar
H. H.



2 4 1540

